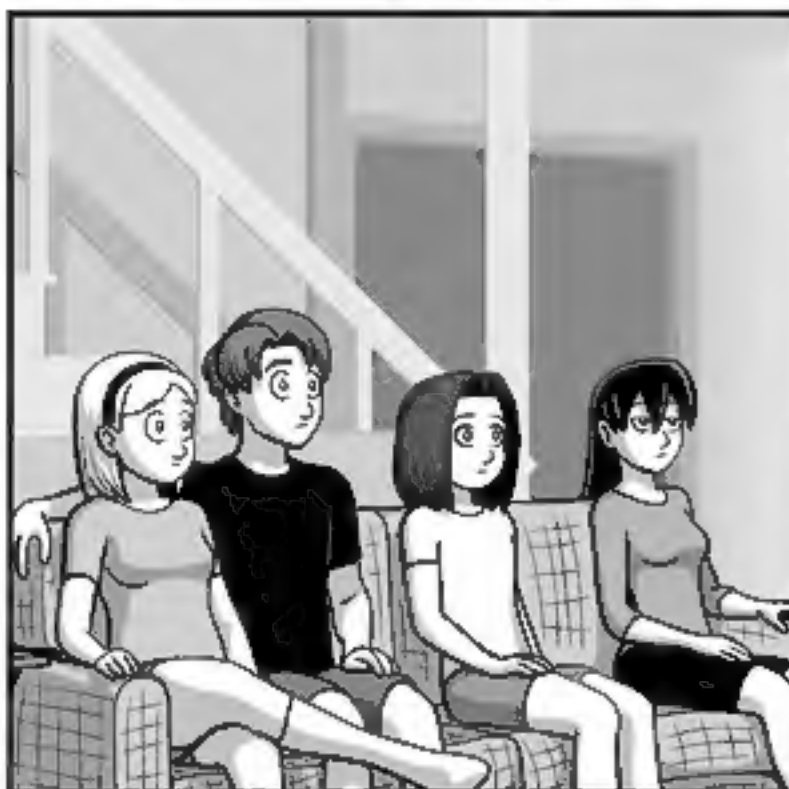


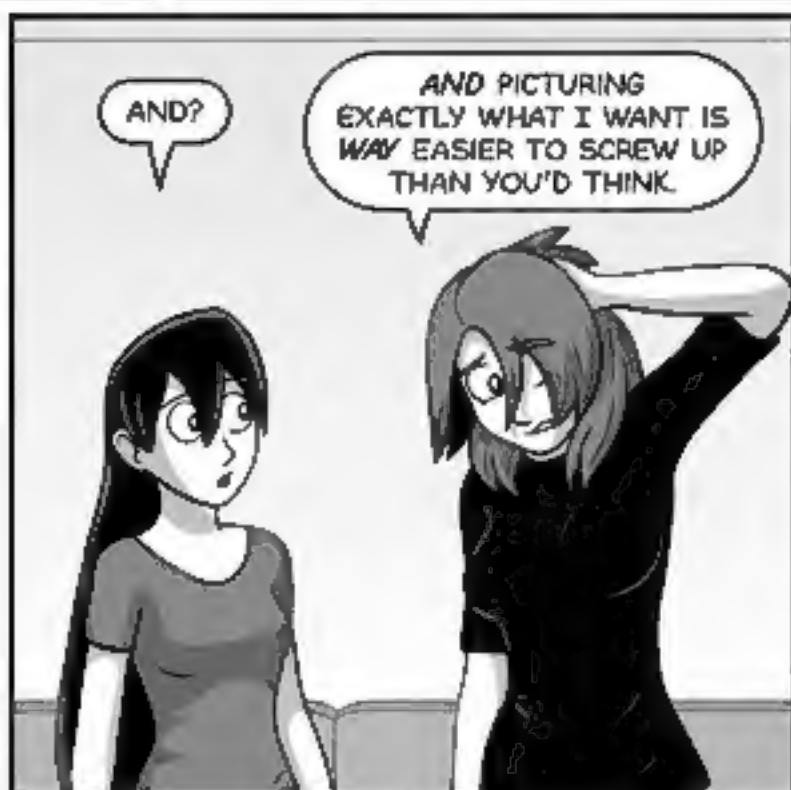
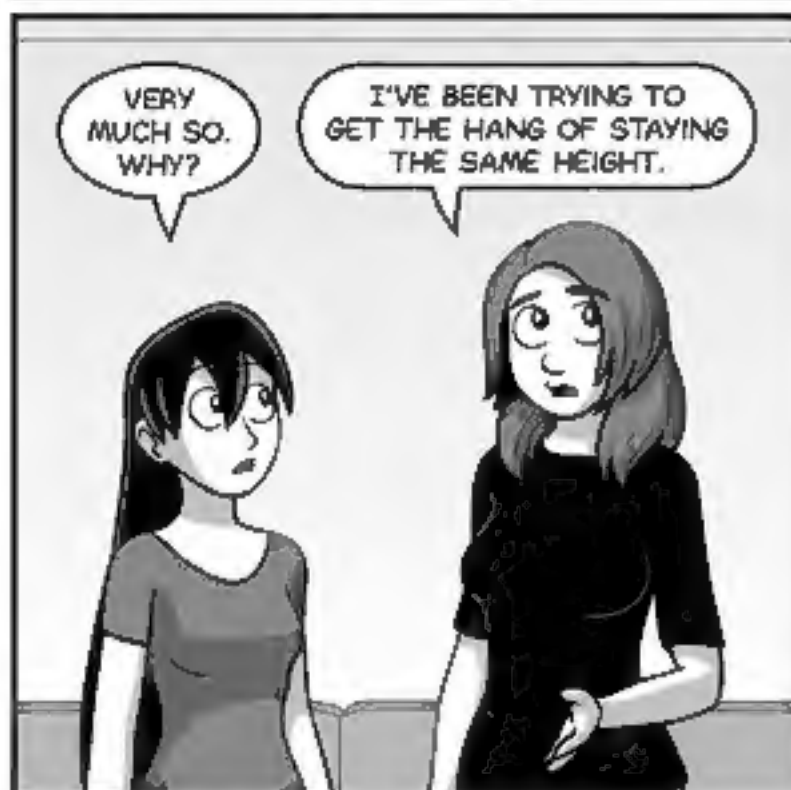


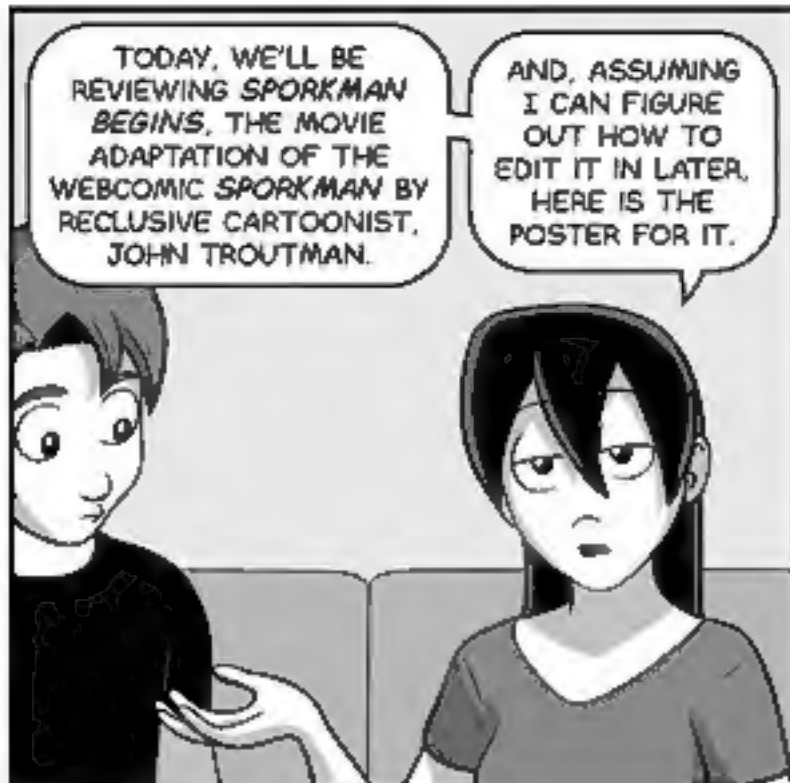
Several reviews from the interwebs later...











REGARDLESS, THIS SPORKMAN IS A BILLIONAIRE PLAYBOY WHO IS FORCED TO USE GAMMA RADIATION TO TURN HIMSELF INTO A HALF-SPORK SUPERHERO IN ORDER TO DIG HIS WAY OUT OF A CAVE AFTER HE IS TRAPPED THERE BY THE MOBSTER WHO MURDERED HIS PARENTS.

THE MOVIE IS POSITIVELY RIDICULOUS, WHICH MAKES IT ALL THE MORE A SHAME THAT IT TAKES ITSELF SO SERIOUSLY.

YEAH, THERE'S A LOT OF STUFF IN IT THAT MIGHT BE COOL IN A DIFFERENT MOVIE. BUT YOU LOOK AT HIM, AND THE DUDE'S GOT A SPORK FOR A HEAD!

IT'S NOT EVEN A CONVINCING SPORK! IT LOOKS LIKE A COMBINATION OF WHITE MAKEUP AND A WEIRD HELMET.

IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE COMIC IS SILLY COMEDY, AND THAT'S WHAT THIS MOVIE NEEDED TO BE.

OH, THEY DID. IT WAS HILARIOUS. I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE GOING FOR BUT IT WAS.

SO YEAH, THEY FAILED TO MAKE A GOOD SERIOUS MOVIE. BUT I THINK THEY ACTUALLY MADE A GOOD FUNNY MOVIE. SO I'M GLAD THEY FAILED.

ME TOO.

ONE COULD ARGUE, HOWEVER, THAT THEY SUCCEEDED.

THAT RIFF GUY SHOULD TOTALLY DO A TRACK FOR IT.

YOU ARE? I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D PREFER A SERIOUS MOVIE.

WHY? IF THEY'D SUCCEEDED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A GENERIC, BORING SUPER HERO MOVIE.

WELL, YEAH, BUT... YOU KNOW, YOU'RE SUCH A SERIOUS PERSON. I FIGURED SERIOUS IS WHAT YOU'D LIKE.

...  
YOU FIGURED WRONG.

YES, I AM A SERIOUS PERSON. THERE'S A LOT TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT, AND WHETHER I WANT TO OR NOT, I TEND TO SPEND A LOT OF MY TIME THINKING ABOUT SERIOUS THINGS.

AS SUCH, AN ABUNDANCE OF SERIOUSNESS IN MY ENTERTAINMENT WOULD BE REDUNDANT. I WATCH MOVIES TO HAVE FUN, AND RELAX, AND FEEL GOOD ABOUT THINGS.

YOU KNOW I LIKE *STAR TREK*?

I... HAD NOTICED.

THE MAIN THING I LIKE ABOUT *STAR TREK* IS THAT, FOR ALL OF THE BAD THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN IT, IT'S ULTIMATELY OPTIMISTIC.

IT DEPICTS A FUTURE WHERE THE WORLD IS PEACEFUL AND ALL OF HUMANITY'S BASIC NEEDS ARE MET. EVERY PERSON, *HUMANITY AS A WHOLE*, HAVE REACHED A POINT OF SELF-ACTUALIZATION.

IT IS AN OPTIMISTIC, SILLY MIX OF TECHNO-BABBLE, GOOFY MAKEUP, SOCIAL COMMENTARY, FUN AND ADVENTURE, AND IT IS BEAUTIFUL.

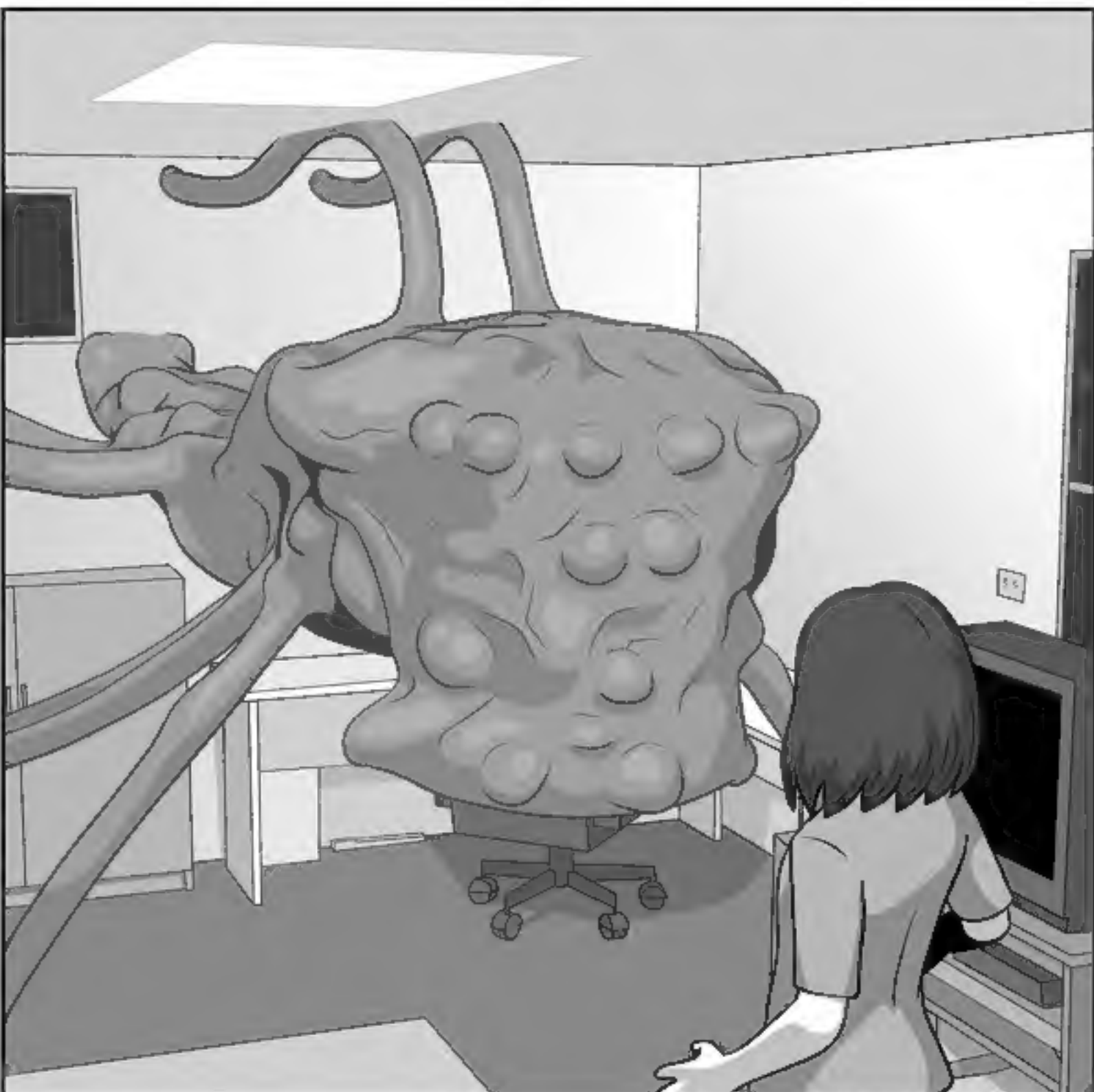
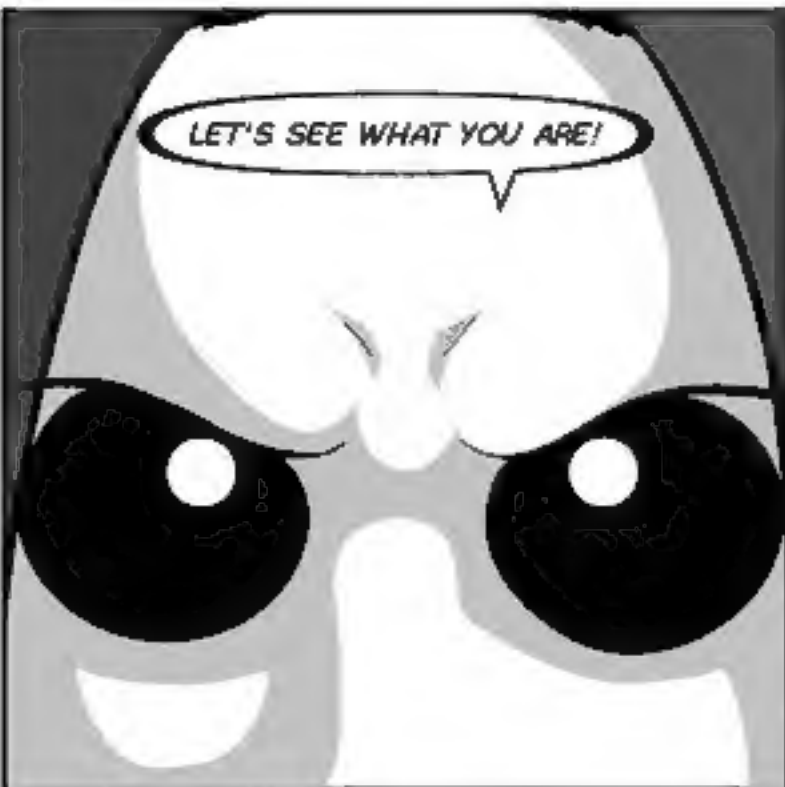
UH... WOW.

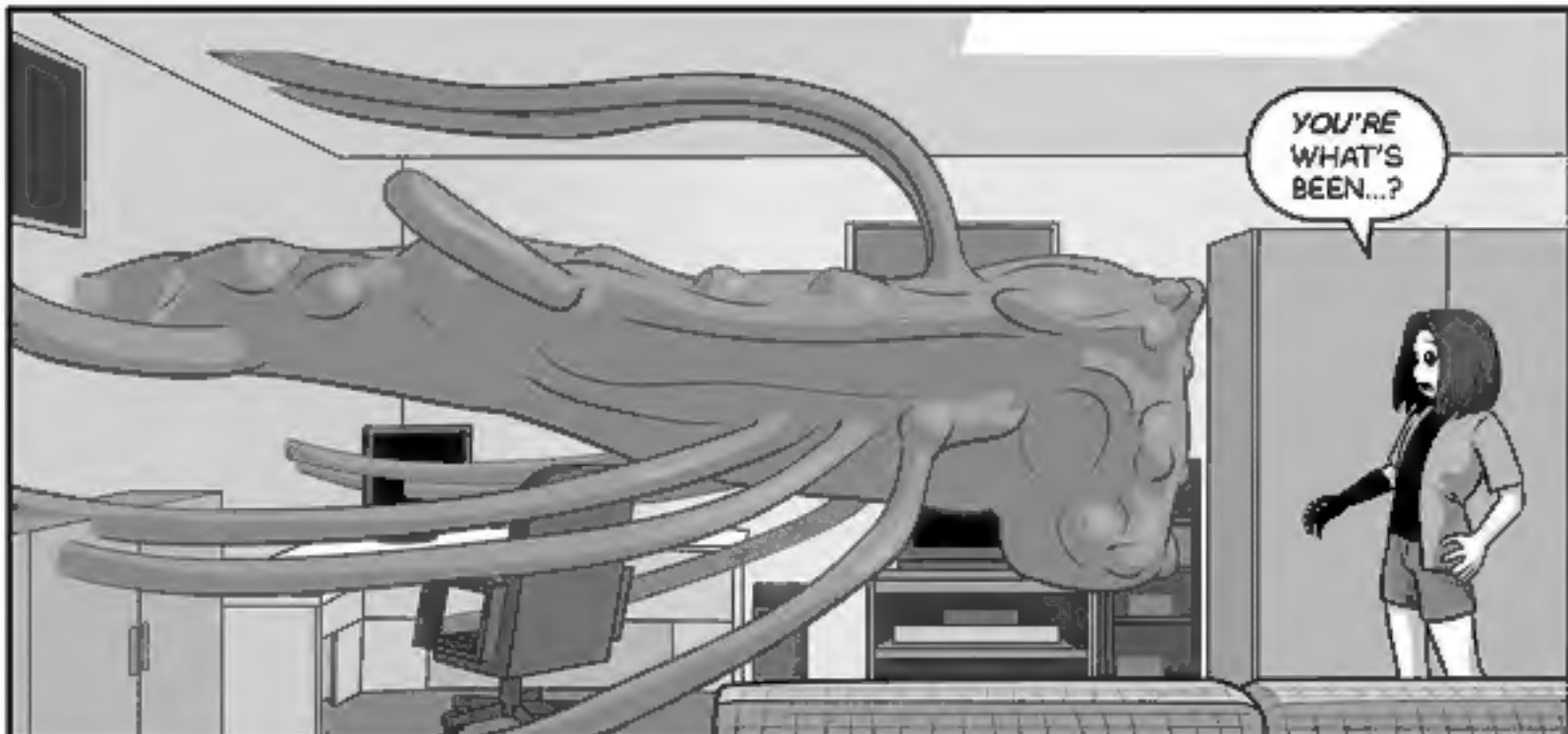
I..

THAT WAS NOT FOR THE REVIEW.









WE MUST BE BRIEF. WE CAN ONLY COMMUNICATE THIS WAY FOR LESS THAN ONE LITERAL SECOND.



THIS IS YOU TALKING TO ME?



WE ARE THINKING AT YOU.

OUR KIND IS BOTH OF, AND NOT OF, YOUR REALITY.



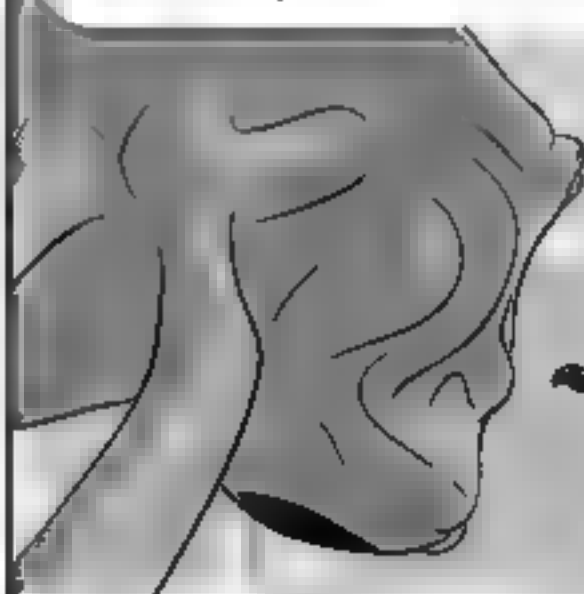
IN TERMS YOU WILL COMPREHEND, WE FEED ON EXCESS MAGIC ENERGY IN THE ENVIRONMENT.

THERE'S MAGIC ENERGY JUST FLOATING AROUND OUT THERE?



YES. NATURALLY, AND UNNATURALLY, OCCURRING.

OUR KIND HELPS MAINTAIN THE HEALTH OF YOUR WORLD BY FEEDING ON MAGIC AND PREVENTING EXTREMES IN AMBIENT MAGIC.



SO YOU'RE LIKE ALGAE EATERS ONLY WITH MAGIC INSTEAD OF ALGAE?



WE PREFER TO BE COMPARED TO WHALES.



WE LIKE WHALES.

WE HAVE OFTEN BEEN IN THIS GENERAL AREA TO FEED. WHEN YOU SOMEHOW NOTICED US. WE HOPED TO WARN YOU.

WARN ME ABOUT WHAT? PSYCHIC ATTACKS TO THE FACE?

NO.

THERE IS FAR MORE MAGIC ENERGY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD THAN THERE SHOULD BE. THERE HAS BEEN FOR MUCH OF YOUR LIFE, BUT IT HAS RECENTLY GOTTEN WORSE.

WE USED TO MINIMIZE ITS EFFECT. NOW WE ONLY SLOW ITS CONTAGION.

OKAY SO TOO MUCH MAGIC WHAT DOES THAT DO?

FOR ONE, THOSE WATCHES OF YOURS WOULDN'T WORK ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

THEY WHAT?

SPELL CATALYSTS THAT SMALL SHOULD REQUIRE A LOT OF ENERGY TO USE.

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE CASTER IS AWARE OF IT, THE SURROUNDING MAGIC MAKES IT EASIER.



SPELLS REQUIRE LESS ENERGY. ENERGY BUILDUPS ARE HARDER TO DEAL WITH. MAGIC ARTIFACTS THAT SHOULD BE DIFFICULT TO USE ARE USED WITH EASE...



THE ONLY MORTALS ON THIS WORLD IT DOES NOT AFFECT ARE OF URYUOM DESCENT.

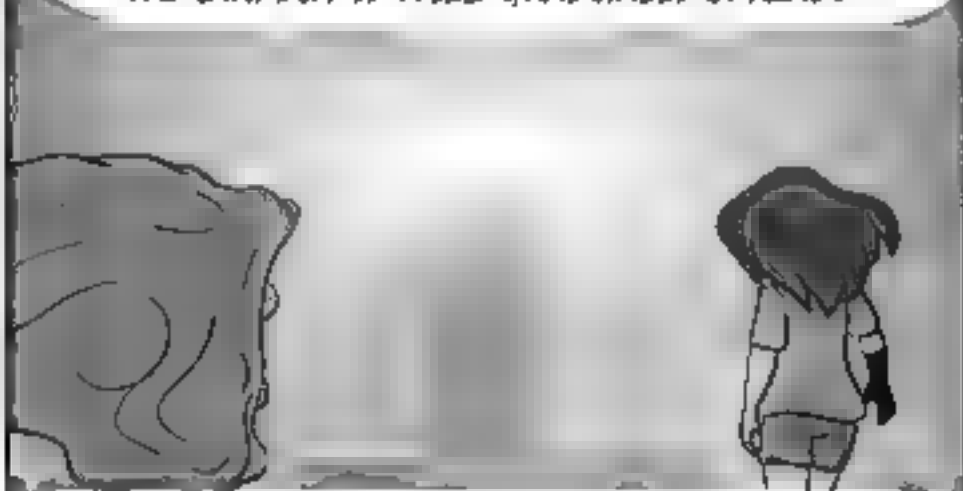
THEIR POWER ALWAYS COMES FROM WITHIN, AND WHILE IT IS SIMILAR, IT IS NOT THE SAME.



THAT'S WHY GRACE CAN'T USE THE WATCHES. HER OWN POWER ISN'T COMPATIBLE, AND THE AMBIENT ENERGY DOESN'T HELP HER...

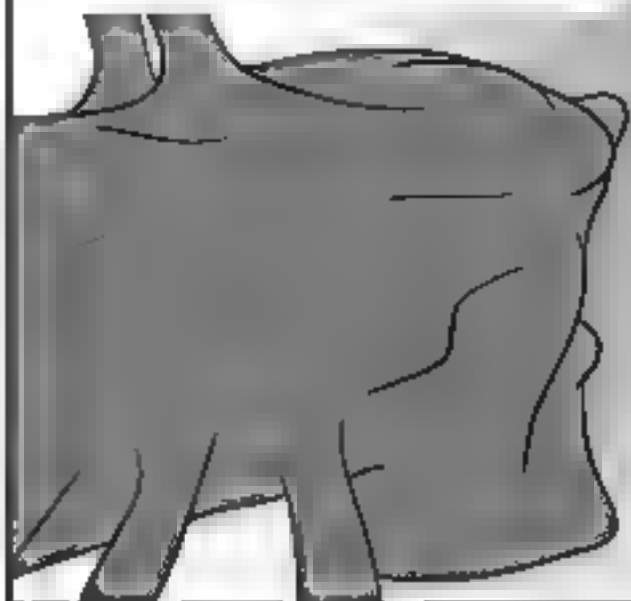


THE MAGIC ENERGY WITHIN A FEW SQUARE MILES OF HERE HAVE REACHED A PEAK. WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN, BUT IT WILL GRADUALLY SPREAD.



AS IT DOES, MORE BEINGS WILL BECOME AWARE OF IT ON BOTH CONSCIOUS AND SUBCONSCIOUS LEVELS.

MANY WILL BE DRAWN TO IT, EVEN IF THEY KNOW NOT WHY.



WHAT'S CAUSING ALL OF THIS?



THAT IS UNKNOWN, BUT WE SUSPECT IT IS THE WILL OF ONE OR MORE BEINGS OF GREAT POWER.







WE ARE OUT  
OF TIME. WE  
APOLOGIZE FOR  
THE HEADACHE.

WAIT!



IF YOU KNOW SO MUCH,  
CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT  
MY MAGIC? WILL I EVER  
GET SPELLS OF MY OWN?



NO. YOU ARE NOT A  
SPELLCASTER. YOU ARE A FAR  
MORE DANGEROUS RARITY.

WHAT THE  
HELL DOES  
THAT



THWUMP



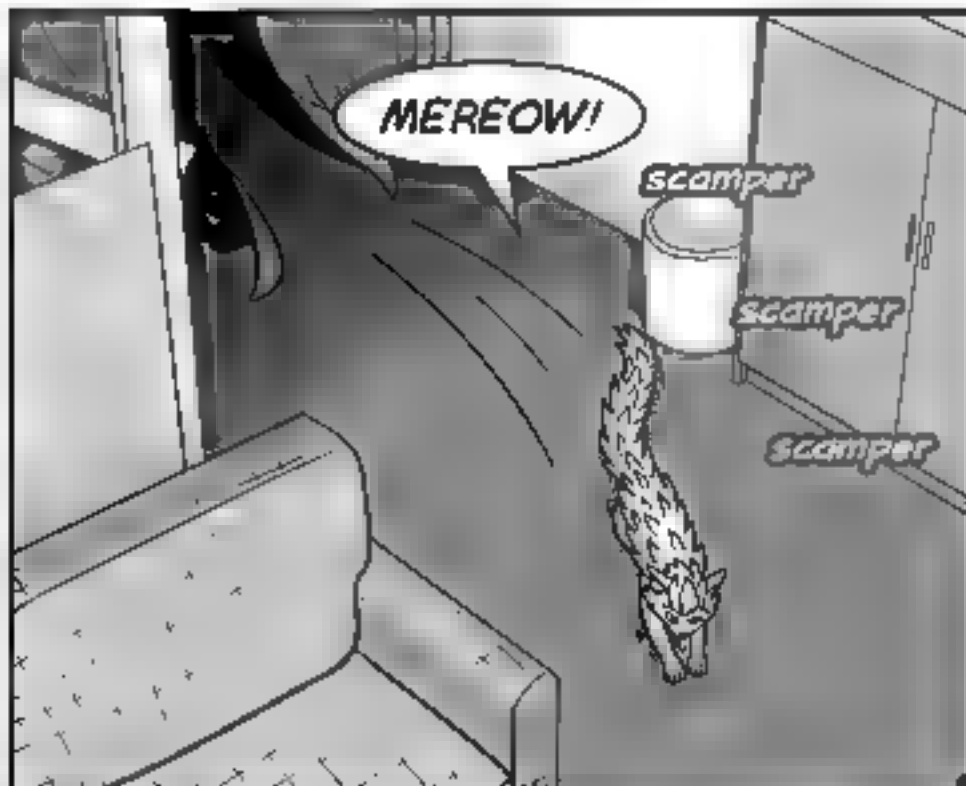
NNGH.

DID THAT  
REALLY JUST  
OW



OW  
OW

OW





**SIX  
MONTHS  
LATER**



SO NONE OF THE TNG MOVIES ARE CANON?!

THEY'RE OFFICIALLY CANON BUT I DON'T CARE THERE'S TOO MUCH CONTINUITY WEIRDNESS YOU YOURSELF POINTED OUT AN INCONSISTENCY WHEN WE WATCHED THE TNG EPISODE "RELIQS"

I NOTICED A PLOT HOLE ME

I PREFER TO THINK OF THEM AS TAKING PLACE IN ONE OF THE PARALLEL UNIVERSES.

SO I CAN JUST IGNORE NEMESIS.

WHAT EMIS?

OH THANK GOD

I DIDN'T BELIEVE YOU WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO WEAR A STARFLEET UNIFORM IN A REVIEW

YOU HELPED ME FIND THE COSTUME!

STILL

I THINK THIS IS OUR BEST REVIEW YET

IT IS PRETTY GOOD. I THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED ME WHY I WASN'T WEARING A UNIFORM FROM THE ORIGINAL SERIES.

THAT'S... REALLY NOT SOMETHING I NEEDED TO ASK









WHAT? WHAT'S  
WITH THE FRY  
FACE?



I'M NOT SURE YOU  
DON'T ACTUALLY  
WANT ANYTHING FOR  
YOUR BIRTHDAY

OH? UH...  
I REALLY  
DON'T



MY MOTHER ALREADY MAKES  
EVERY EFFORT TO SPOIL ME  
AND MY BIRTHDAY REALLY  
ISN'T WORTH CELEBRATING.



AND ELLEN CALLS ME  
A STICK IN THE MUD.  
YOU'RE GOING TO BE OLD  
ENOUGH TO VOTE! YOU  
SHOULD CELEBRATE!

I'M NOT BEING A  
STICK. I WAS BORN  
ON NEW YEAR'S DAY  
IT'S POINTLESS TO  
HAVE A CELEBRATION.



IT'S ONLY A WEEK AFTER CHRISTMAS  
AND EVERYONE'S ALREADY PARTIED  
OUT AFTER NEW YEARS EVE WE'RE  
ALREADY ALL GOING TO BE HERE FOR  
A NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

WELL,  
MOST OF  
US.



I STILL CAN'T  
BELIEVE ELLEN AND  
NANASE GOT INVITED  
TO A PARTY WITH  
COLLEGE STUDENTS.

WELL, THEY *DID* SAVE  
THEIR MASCOT WHILE  
SOLVING THE MYSTERY  
OF THE HAUNTED  
LOCKER ROOM.

YEAH WELL YOU'RE STILL HAVING A BIRTHDAY PARTY SUSAN.

UM, NO, I'M NOT

YEAH, YOU ARE. BECAUSE WE'RE HAVING A PARTY FOR NEW YEARS EITHER WAY YOU'RE EIGHTEEN AS SOON AS THAT BALL DROPS.

TECHNICALLY I WAS BORN TEN MINUTES AFTER MIDNIGHT

STILL, THE WAY I SEE IT THERE ARE TWO BIRTHDAYS HAPPENING THE PLANET'S, AND YOURS. I DON'T THINK IT'S RIGHT TO CELEBRATE ONE AND IGNORE THE OTHER.

BUT I REALLY DON'T WANT PRESENTS

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT PRESENTS. I'M JUST SAYING THE CELEBRATION SHOULD BE, YOU KNOW SHARED.

SO YOU'RE SUGGESTING WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO ANYWAY, BUT ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I WAS BORN AT SOME POINT

MOSTLY I'M SUGGESTING I BUY A CAKE AND WE BRIEFLY EMBARRASS YOU WITH A HAPPY BIRTHDAY SONG

CAKE? YOU'LL BUY US CAKE?

THAT'S REALLY NOT--

THAT WOULD BE NICE THANK YOU ELIJOT

YOU DON'T MIND A BIT OF CAKE AT YOUR NEW YEAR'S PARTY RIGHT TEDD?

HM? SORRY I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION I WAS OBSESSING OVER NANASE'S HAIR

WHAT

NANASE'S ACCELERATED HAIR GROWTH IS DUE TO EXTRA MAGIC. BUT SHE'S STILL BURNED OUT WHY?

WHAT IF HER MAGIC KNOWS THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET CRAZY AND WANTS TO MAKE SURE SHE HAS ENOUGH MAGIC READY WHEN IT HAPPENS?

BUT WHAT'S THE ADVANTAGE OF DENYING HER ACCESS TO HER MAGIC IN THE INTERIM? IT INCONVENIENCES HER AND ONLY GUARANTEES FULL POWER ON ONE OCCASION!

Magics

QUESTION.

BECAUSE IT'S LIKE EXERCISE THE LONGER IT GOES ON BEFORE SHE TRULY NEEDS TO USE MAGIC AGAIN. THE MORE MUSCULAR HER CAPACITY TO STORE MAGIC WILL BE!

HOW IS THIS RELEVANT TO CAKE?



Back in July



OKAY SO NO. BUT IF THERE WERE SOMETHING LIKE THAT YOU'D TELL ME

RIGHT?

TEDD

IF YOU ASK ME A QUESTION I CANNOT ANSWER, EITHER BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW OR CANNOT SAFELY SAY I WILL, SAY SO. OR CHANGE THE SUBJECT OR FAKE A SEIZURE

THAT WAS FAKE?

WHAT I WILL NOT DO IS FEED YOU MISINFORMATION. YOU'RE IN TOO DEEP FOR THAT TO BE SAFE FOR ANYONE IF I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING I WOULD SAY SO

OR PRETEND MY PHONE IS RINGING.

MY DAD'S NEVER HEARD OF THE WHALES. I KNOW HE CAN'T KNOW EVERYTHING, BUT... DUDE

YOU NEED TO RELAX, TEDD.

THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING WHEN. OR EVEN IF, WE'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH MAGIC JERKS.

PARTICULARLY WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT A POTENTIALLY IMMORTAL INTER-DIMENSIONAL WHALE'S CONCEPT OF TIME COULD DIFFERENT ATE GREATLY FROM OUR OWN PERCEPTION OF SPACETIME

SUSAN HOW MUCH STAR TREK HAVE YOU BEEN MAKING ELLIOT WATCH?

I MERELY PROVIDED THE NEXT GENERATION DVDS. HE'S THE ONE WHO INSISTED ON WATCHING THE ENTIRE SERIES TWICE.



LOOK, I KNOW I MIGHT BE WORRYING  
OVER NOTHING. JUST IF YOU CAN THINK  
OF ANY REASONABLE WAY TO PREPARE  
YOURSELF FOR MAGIC JACKASSES. DO T

THAT'S WHAT  
GRACE AND I HAVE  
BEEN DOING.

WHERE IS  
GRACE TODAY,  
ANYWAY?

PREPARING.



BEGIN.





WELL, MELONS.

ELLEN DON'T YOU HAVE ANY  
TRANSFORMATION BEAMS WITH  
LESS... *AWKWARD* RESULTS?

NOT IF YOU WANT "AMPING UP"  
AND RAPID FIRE. ALL MY OTHER  
BEAMS HAVE COOL DOWN  
TIMES BETWEEN SHOTS.

DON'T WORRY  
IT'S EASY FOR  
ME TO CHANGE  
BACK

SEE? I'M IN  
COMPLETE  
CONTROL OF MY  
BREAST SIZE!

THAT'S,  
UH.

THAT'S...  
NEAT

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'M GOING  
TO NEED A MINUTE IF YOU  
WANT TO TRY THAT AGAIN.

HEY SO LONG AS WE'RE  
TALKING ABOUT THEM, WOULD IT  
BE SMART TO JUST GO TOTALLY  
FLAT WHEN FIGHTING?

ON THE ONE  
HAND, IT--

YOU KNOW WHAT?  
YOU TWO NEED TO  
STAY HYDRATED.

I'M GOING TO GO GET YOU  
SOME WATER WHILE THINKING  
ABOUT BASEBALL AND OTHER  
VARIOUS SPORTS

IT'S PRETTY COOL  
HOW YOU CAN BLOCK  
THOSE BEAMS. GRACE.

THANKS. BUT I'M  
NOT THAT GOOD  
AT IT YET



DON'T BE SO HARD ON  
YOURSELF IT'S AMAZING  
THAT YOU CAN DO IT AT  
ALL! AND IT'S COOL TO  
FINALLY SEE YOU USE  
YOUR TELEKINESIS AGAIN.

UM. THANK YOU  
BUT YOU'VE SEEN  
ME USE IT A LOT



I HAVE?  
WHEN?

EVERY TIME I'VE FLOWN.  
FOR SOME REASON, IT'S  
EASIER TO LEVITATE MYSELF  
THAN OTHER THINGS.



I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO SHIELD  
MYSELF WHILE FLYING AND IT'S TRICKY  
TO USE TELEKINESIS WHILE RUNNING

OR  
WALKING




OR MOVING  
MUCH AT ALL,  
REALLY


SO IT'S A SUPER  
COOL SHIELD IF YOU  
STAND PERFECTLY STILL  
LIKE A TARGET ON A  
SHOOTING RANGE?

HENCE THE  
PRACTICE






THANK YOU FOR  
MEETING WITH  
ME NANASE



OH NO. THANK YOU,  
SARAH. FOR THE PIZZA.  
NOW WHAT DID YOU WANT  
TO TALK WITH ME ABOUT?



UM, FIRST DO YOU  
PROMISE TO NOT TELL  
ELLEN ABOUT OUR  
CONVERSATION?


ELLEN? WHY  
WOULD SHE  
CARE?



DO YOU  
PROMISE?

I PROMISE NOT TO  
TELL HER IF IT'S NOT  
SOMETHING I THINK SHE  
HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW

NOM



FAIR  
ENOUGH

OKAY SO WHY'S IT  
SO IMPORTANT THAT I  
NOT TELL ELLEN?



I WANT TO "JUST  
FRIENDS" ELLIOT



YOU WANT TO  
BREAK UP WITH  
ELLIOT?

NO! I MEAN YES, BUT... I  
DON'T WANT TO DATE HIM,  
BUT I DON'T WANT TO LOSE  
HIM, EITHER. I'VE KNOWN  
HIM ALL MY LIFE. HE'S ONE  
OF MY BEST FRIENDS!

AND I DON'T WANT TO  
BREAK UP THE GROUP. I LIKE  
HANGING OUT WITH TEDD  
JUSTIN YOU. I DON'T WANT  
TO LOSE ANY OF YOU!

EASY, SARAH.  
RELAX. WE'LL  
FIGURE THIS  
OUT.

NOW *WHY* DO YOU  
WANT TO... "JUST  
FRIENDS" WITH ELLIOT?  
HAVE THINGS GOTTEN BAD  
BETWEEN YOU TWO?

THINGS HAVEN'T  
GOTTEN ANY-  
THING. THAT'S  
SORT OF THE  
PROBLEM.

HE'S ALWAYS BEEN  
NICE AND HE *TRIES*  
TO BE CONSIDERATE  
BUT HE'S JUST SO  
*PASSIVE* IN OUR  
RELATIONSHIP.

HE NEVER WANTS TO TRY ANYTHING NEW.  
IT'S ALWAYS UP TO ME TO COME UP WITH  
STUFF TO DO AND GET THINGS GOING.  
AND EVEN WITH ME CALLING ALMOST ALL  
THE SHOTS, WE'RE *STILL VIRGINS!*

HOW LOUDLY  
DID I JUST  
SAY THAT?

I'M PRETTY SURE NOT  
*EVERYONE* IN THE  
RESTAURANT HEARD THAT.

YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE  
ELLIOT'S RESTRAINT  
PERSONALLY HE JUST HAS  
MORE RESPECT FOR THE  
POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES  
THAN MOST PEOPLE

WHY? IS IT SOME-  
THING HE'S FOCUSED  
ON BECAUSE OF UM.  
YOU KNOW.. "THE  
DIAMOND"?

I'M TOO YOUNG AND TOO  
MALE TO BE THE MOTHER  
OF A SEVENTEEN-  
YEAR-OLD FEMALE ME!

I WAS MORE THINKING  
ABOUT THE FACT THAT  
HIS MOTHER ISN'T  
EVEN FORTY YET

HIS MOM? WHY WOULD  
YOU BRING HER UP WHILE  
TALKING ABOUT THIS?

BECAUSE ELLIOT'S  
EIGHTEEN.

WHAT DOES THAT--

MATH.

$39 - 18 =$

OH...

ELLIOT CAN'T HELP  
BUT THINK ABOUT  
THE POSSIBILITY OF  
A PREGNANCY

BUT THERE ARE  
SO MANY WAYS  
TO PREVENT  
THAT

THE ONLY  
GUARANTEED WAY  
IS ABSTINENCE.

WHICH, TO BE FAIR,  
IS SOMETHING PEOPLE  
SHOULD KEEP IN MIND.

OR, YOU KNOW  
BEING THE SAME SEX.

ARE YOU SURE  
YOU REALLY WANT  
TO BREAK UP WITH  
ELLIOT?

I MEAN THAT  
WHOLE VIRGIN THING  
ISN'T WHY--

NO OF COURSE NOT I CAN WAIT IT'S  
JUST SOMETHING THAT I'VE WANTED  
TO UH IT'S A NITPICK THE PROBLEM  
IS A BUNCH OF LITTLE THINGS THAT  
ADD UP, AND THAT I'M NOT HAPPY

I DON'T THINK HE'S HAPPY EITHER  
BUT HE JUST GOES ALONG WITH  
THINGS SO MUCH THAT I'M NOT SURE  
HE'S EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT

HE'S NOT EVEN WORKING AT THE  
VIDEO STORE ANYMORE AND HE  
STILL SPENDS WAY MORE TIME  
WITH SUSAN THAN ME MAKING  
THAT REVIEW SHOW OF THEIRS

YOU DON'T  
THINK THEY'RE

ELLIOT AND SUSAN? NO WAY  
THEY WOULDN'T DO THAT TO  
ME AND I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF  
SUSAN HAS A SEX DRIVE.

ALTHOUGH. IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT IF  
THEY LIKED EACH OTHER "WE'RE THROUGH.  
BUT HERE! HAVE A SUSAN!"

WASN'T MY DOING THAT  
WITH ELLIOT AND YOU HOW  
WE WOUND UP IN THIS MESS  
IN THE FIRST PLACE?

YOU--WAIT ELLIOT  
BROKE UP WITH  
YOU... RIGHT?

OH. MY GOD YOU  
BROKE UP WITH HIM.

WELL, NOW I'M SURE HE  
WOULD HAVE BROKEN UP WITH  
ME IF GIVEN THE CHANCE

DOES HE DO ANYTHING  
WITHOUT BEING TOLD?!

BUT I WANTED TO MAKE IT  
EASIER ON HIM AND I'D BEEN  
THINKING ABOUT BREAKING UP  
WITH HIM ANYWAY SO I JUST  
WENT AHEAD AND-

I'M SURE HE DOES... *SOME*  
THINGS. HE DIDN'T LIE TO  
YOU ABOUT THIS. DID HE?

NO OF COURSE NOT  
LIKE AN IDIOT I ASSUMED  
HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE  
ON SOMETHING!

HEY I NEVER GAVE  
HIM THE *CHANCE* TO  
HE WANTED TO BE  
WITH YOU

CAN YOU HONESTLY TELL ME  
YOU THINK HE WOULD HAVE  
BROKEN UP WITH YOU IF YOU  
HADN'T DONE IT *FIRST*?

HONESTY..

NO I CAN'T HE WOULD HAVE  
BEEN TORN UP ABOUT HURTING  
ME I'M NOT SURE WHAT HE'D  
HAVE DONE IF I'D TOLD HIM I  
WANTED TO STAY TOGETHER

ELLIOT MEANS WELL, BUT HE  
IGNORES HIS OWN NEEDS AND  
AVOIDS MAKING CHOICES.

I DON'T THINK HE'S  
READY FOR A SERIOUS  
RELATIONSHIP

THAT WAS A LOT OF HONESTY

OF COURSE HE MEANS WELL. THIS WOULD BE EASY IF HE WAS A JERK

YES BUT THAT'S A GOOD THING SO LONG AS YOU REMAIN CALM AND NICE DURING THE BREAKUP I'M SURE YOU'LL REMAIN FRIENDS.

OR RATHER, INTENTIONALLY A JERK

YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT I JUST WISH I'D DECIDED ON THIS SOONER. THEN I COULD GET IT OVER WITH.

YOU CAN'T GET IT OVER WITH NOW?

TOMORROW'S CHRISTMAS EVE! I CAN'T DO THAT TO HIM. HE COULD WIND UP ASSOCIATING CHRISTMAS WITH BEING DUMPED!

SO... A COUPLE DAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS?

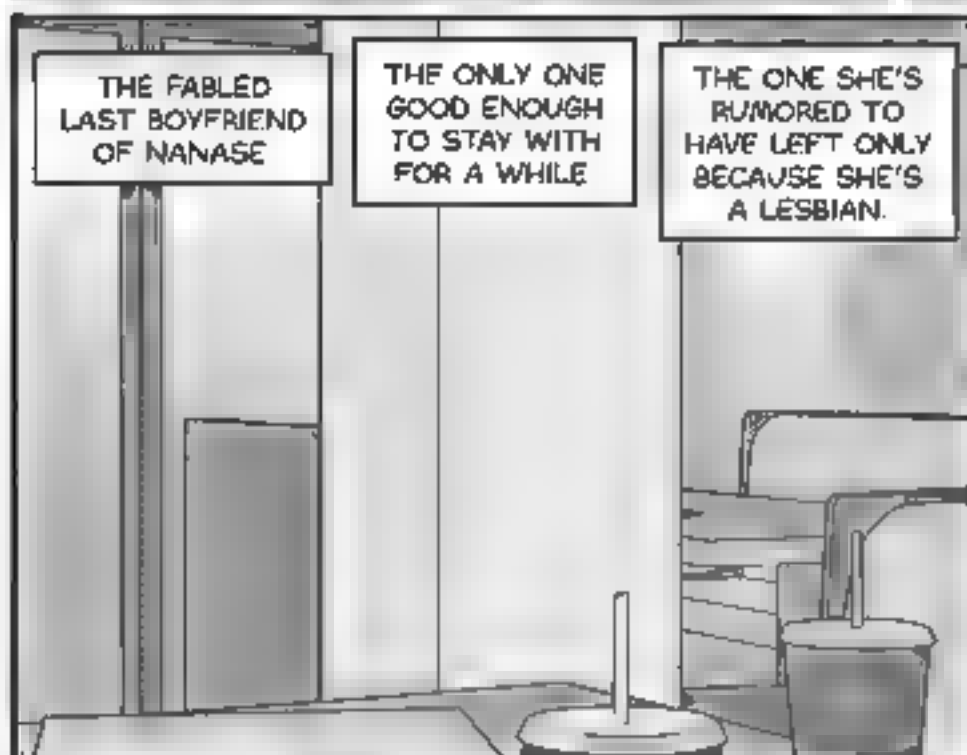
THEN I'M RUINING NEW YEARS! I'LL WAIT UNTIL PEOPLE START THROWING OUT CHRISTMAS TREES. I'LL DO THE LEAST DAMAGE THEN.

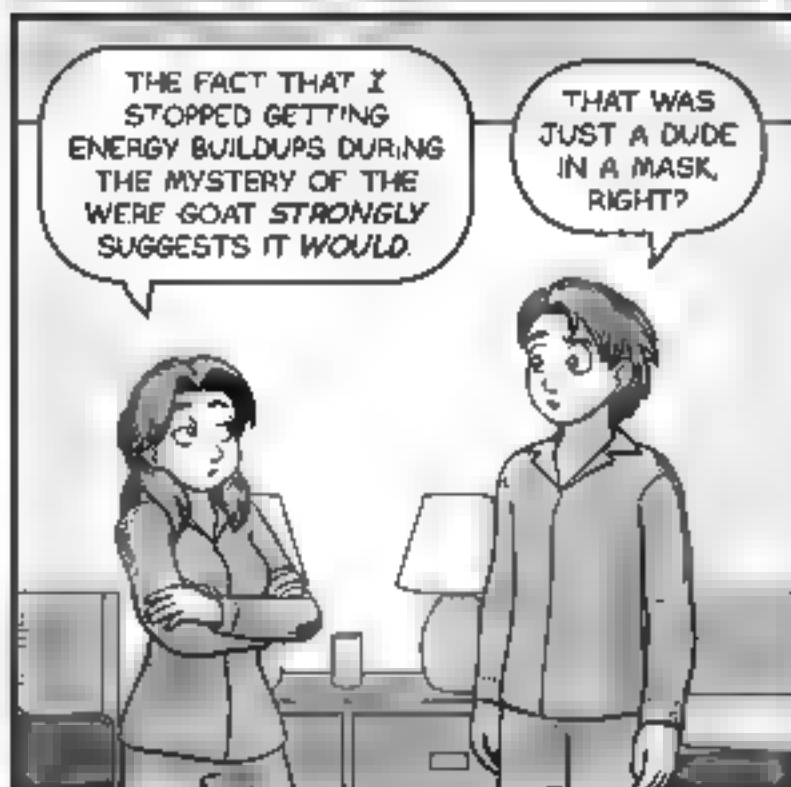
SO YOU'RE STILL GOING TO SPEND NEW YEARS EVE WITH HIM?

I STILL CARE ABOUT HIM. I'M NOT GOING TO RUIN HIS HOLIDAYS.

I'M SUDDENLY VERY GLAD I'M GOING TO THAT COLLEGE PARTY









WHAT'S WITH THE LOOK?

NOTHING. I WAS JUST.. I THINK YOU SHOULD TRY BEING MORE INTROSPECTIVE

WHAT? WHY?

I THINK IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT WHY YOU FEEL THE WAY YOU DO ABOUT SOME THINGS.

LIKE WHY YOU'RE NOT EVEN TRYING TO GET RID OF YOUR ENERGY BUILD UPS ANYMORE.

I TOLD YOU I HATE TRAVELING AND I DON'T LIKE LOOKING INTO MY OWN HEAD.

I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE GETTING INTROSPECTIVE HELL, I KNOW *WHY* YOU DON'T

BUT REALLY THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON WHY YOU *SHOULD*.

...OKAY FINE I'LL TRY DOING THAT IF YOU CAN ANSWER ME ONE *SUPER IMPORTANT* QUESTION.

WHAT'S THAT?

BLACK OR BLONDE?

I WORRY ABOUT WHAT  
MOTIVATES ME I MEAN NOT  
ALL THE TIME BUT



I USED TO GET  
INTO A LOT OF FIGHTS.  
THEY WERE ALWAYS  
WITH BULLIES AND  
JERKS, BUT



I LIKED  
FIGHTING THEM.  
I DID IT WITH A  
SMILE ON MY  
FACE

I KNOW VIOLENCE MAKES  
SENSE SOMETIMES, BUT IT'S NOT  
REALLY HOW YOU FIX THINGS.  
YOU KNOW? DID I REALLY NEED  
TO HIT EVERYONE I'VE EVER HIT?



HAVE I IGNORED NON-  
VIOLENT SOLUTIONS BECAUSE  
I WANTED A FIGHT?

OR AM I JUST  
NOT SMART  
ENOUGH TO THINK  
OF THEM?

OR AM I  
JUST VIOLENT  
AND STUPID?




I GUESS WHEN YOU  
GET DOWN TO IT I DON'T  
LIKE THINKING ABOUT WHY  
I DO THE THINGS I DO  
BECAUSE I'M WORRIED  
THAT DEEP DOWN?




MAYBE I'M  
A BAD GUY






DO YOU THINK I  
NEVER WANT TO  
HIT ANYONE?



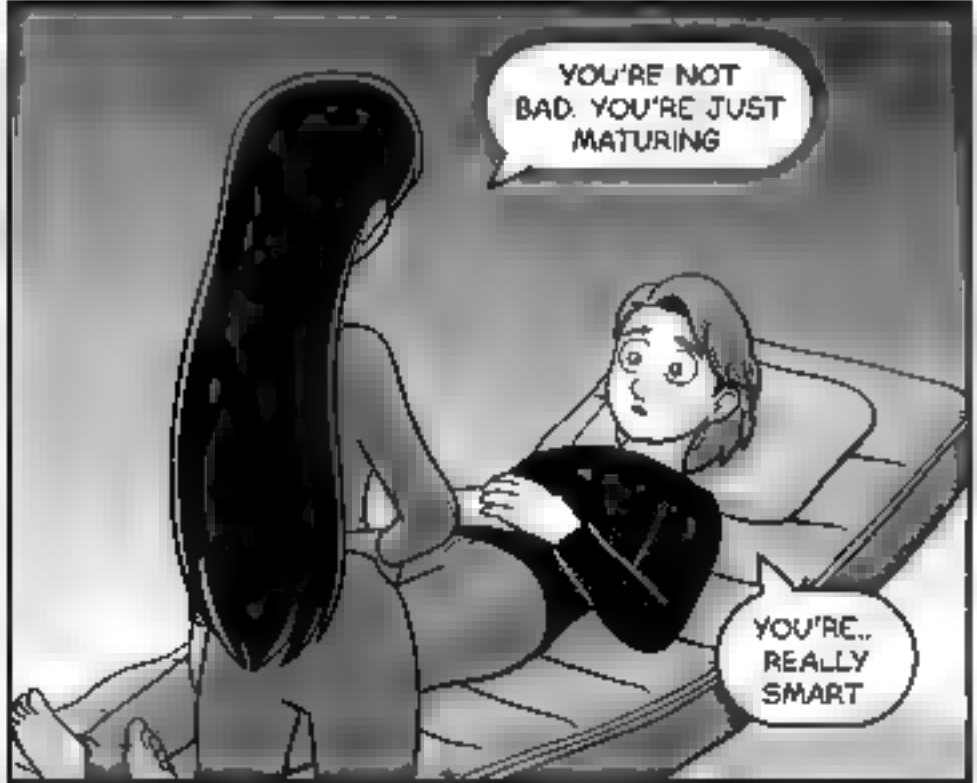
IT MAKES YOU ANGRY WHEN  
PEOPLE HURT OTHERS. IT MAKES  
YOU WANT TO HURT THEM.

IN MANY CASES, YOU  
HAVE DONE SO IN ORDER  
TO DEFEND PEOPLE




YOU LIKE TO  
HELP PEOPLE. IT  
WASN'T JUST  
THE *FIGHTING*  
YOU LIKED. IT  
WAS BEING A  
*HERO*.

WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER, THAT  
WAS ENOUGH. NOW THAT YOU'RE  
OLDER, YOU KNOW THAT BEING A  
HERO ISN'T ABOUT HITTING PEOPLE




YOU'RE NOT  
BAD. YOU'RE JUST  
MATURING

YOU'RE...  
REALLY  
SMART



I KNOW ANGER. I KNOW  
PAIN, AND SADNESS.  
INSTEAD OF GIVING IN TO  
SUCH FEELINGS, I'VE USED  
THEM TO GROW STRONGER.  
TO *HELP* PEOPLE



I'M AN EXPERT  
ON FEELINGS,  
ELLIOT

LET'S FEEL  
THINGS  
TOGETHER

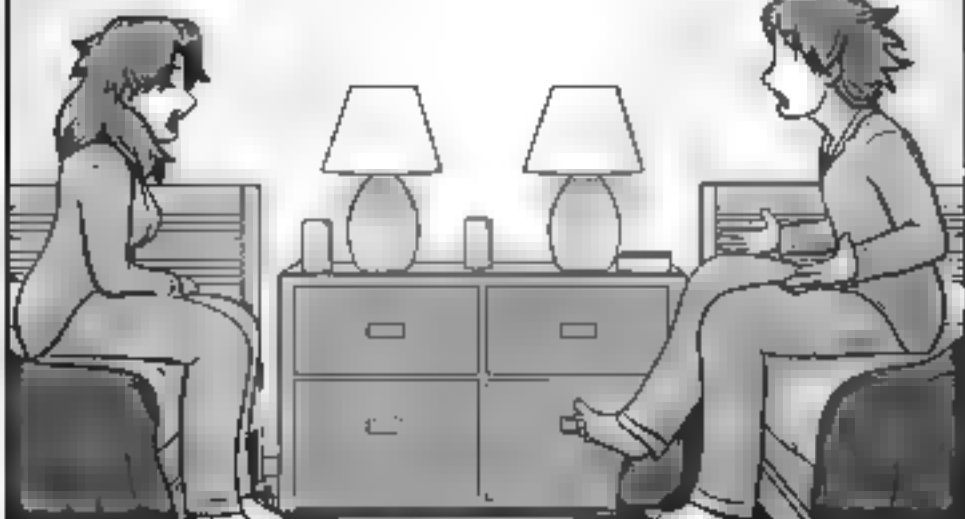


**I AM HISTORY'S  
GREATEST MONSTER!**



I'M ~~YAWN~~ PRETTY  
SURE YOU'VE GOT  
COMPETITION FOR  
THAT TITLE

I DREAMED ABOUT  
A GIRL WHO'S A  
FRIEND WHO ISN'T  
MY GIRLFRIEND!



YOU'RE A TEENAGER  
WHO HAD A NAUGHTY  
DREAM. TRULY YOU ARE  
AN ABOMINATION.

COULD YOU AT  
LEAST TRY TO  
TAKE THIS  
SERIOUSLY?



I AM TAKING THIS  
SERIOUSLY YOU'RE  
THE ONE WHO'S  
GONE GOOFY

I CHEATED  
ON SARAH!



NO YOU--IT WAS A DREAM,  
JACKASS! YOUR JOB NOW IS  
TO FIGURE OUT IF IT MEANT  
ANYTHING OR IF IT WAS  
JUST TEENAGE HORMONES.



OH! WELL  
TEENAGE HORMONES,  
OBVIOUSLY



THINK

HARDER.







WHAT DO I WANT THAT'S  
A STUPID QUESTION. I  
KNOW WHAT I WANT



I WANT EVERYONE  
TO BE HAPPY

OF COURSE I  
GUESS I CAN'T MAKE  
EVERYONE HAPPY



BUT I DO MY BEST! I'M  
ALWAYS HELPFUL! WHENEVER  
I SEE SOMEONE IN TROUBLE  
OR SOMEONE ASKS FOR  
HELP I'M THERE!

ALTHOUGH. I GUESS THAT'S  
THE ONLY TIME I'M THERE  
WHEN I HAPPEN TO BE  
AROUND OR SOMEONE ASKS.



MAN. THAT MAKES ME  
SOUND SORT OF LAZY

THIS SHAMPOO SMELLS REALLY  
FRUITY WHY DO WE GET THIS TYPE  
OF SHAMPOO? IS SMELLING LIKE  
FRUIT PUNCH A GOOD THING?

THEY SAY YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
SHAMPOO  
EVERY DAY BUT  
WHEN I DON'T  
MY HAIR GOES  
ALL FLAT



WHAT WAS  
I THINKING  
ABOUT? OH,  
RIGHT

I GUESS I COULD BE A BIT  
MORE PROACTIVE BUT THAT  
DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO  
WITH MY RELATIONSHIP STUFF



THERE'S NOT  
EVEN ANYTHING  
TO THINK ABOUT  
REALLY SARAH'S  
MY ONE TRUE  
LOVE!

OKAY YEAH, I DREAMED  
ABOUT SUSAN, BUT ELLEN'S  
AT LEAST RIGHT ABOUT ONE  
THING, AND THAT'S THAT  
I'M A **TEENAGE DUDE!**



I'VE GOTTS THE  
OVERACTIVE **TEENAGE**  
**HORMONES!**

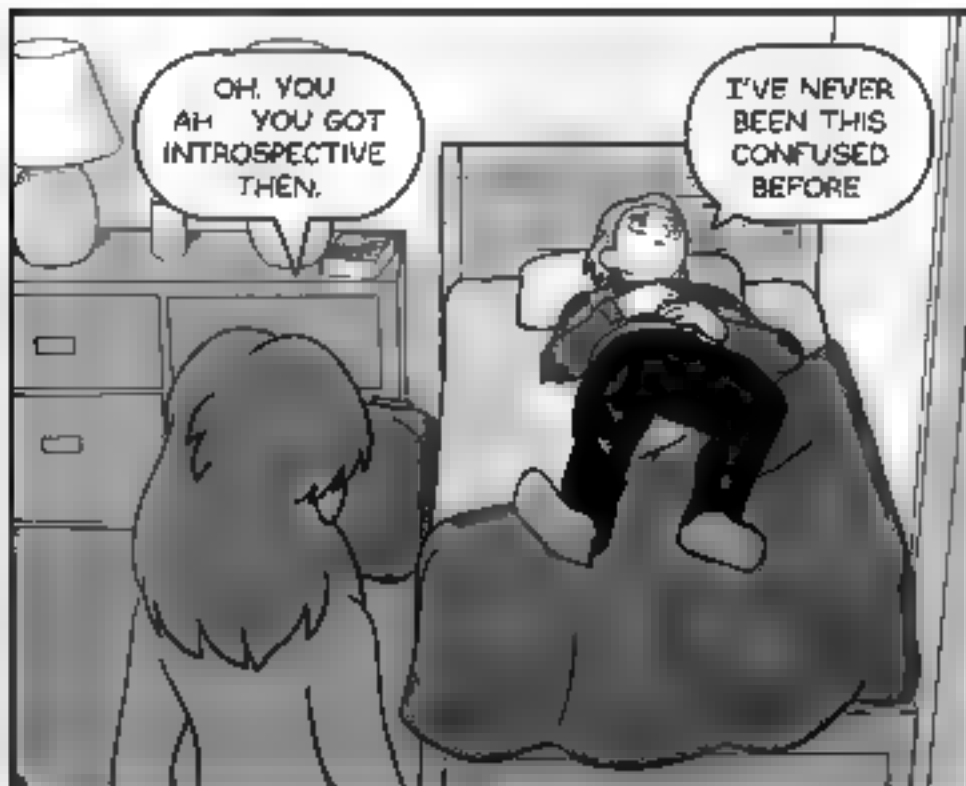
WHO CAN BLAME ME FOR  
HAVING A SEXY DREAM ABOUT  
A BEAUTIFUL, STRONG,  
'INTELLIGENT WOMAN WHO'S  
FUN, AND CHALLENGES ME  
AND INTRODUCES ME TO  
COOL NEW THINGS, AND..



...

UH-OH.

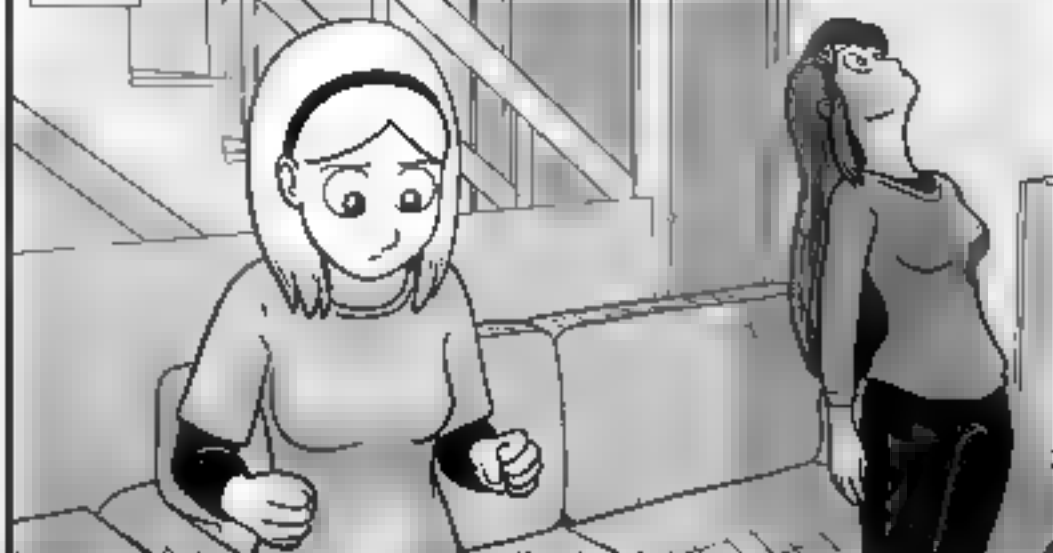




OKAY ELLIOT WILL BE  
HERE SOON BUT THAT'S  
OKAY JUST KEEP IT COOL.  
BE NICE AND FOCUS ON  
OTHER THINGS.

THAT SHOULD  
BE EASY WITH  
CHRISTMAS  
SPECIALS AND  
GRACE

YOU WILL NOT  
BE THE SARAH  
WHO STOLE  
CHRISTMAS!  
YOU...



GRACE  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING?

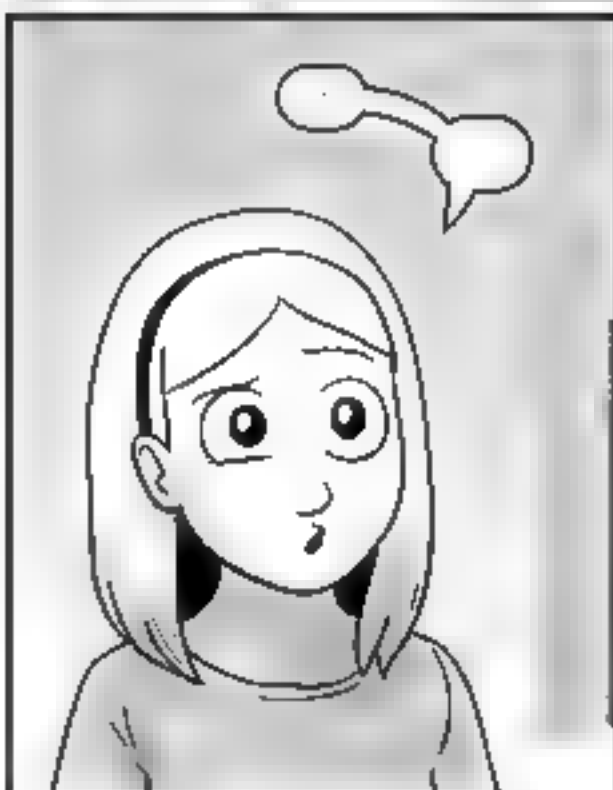
I WAS JUST WONDERING  
WHY PEOPLE LOOK UP WHEN  
REFERRING TO HEAVEN WHEN  
EARTH IS A SPINNING SPHERE  
HURTLING THROUGH SPACE



I WANT TO SAY IT'S OUT OF RESPECT AND A  
REFLECTION OF PEOPLE VIEWING THE POWERS  
THAT BE AS BEYOND THEIR IMMEDIATE REACH  
AND LOOKING DOWN WOULD BE DISRESPECTFUL,  
BUT PEOPLE USED TO THINK THE WORLD WAS  
FLAT, SO IT'S PROBABLY JUST A RELIC OF THAT



SPEAKING OF WHICH, I WAS CONSIDERING THE  
POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF HAVING SMALLER BREASTS  
IN COMBAT DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION ON THAT?



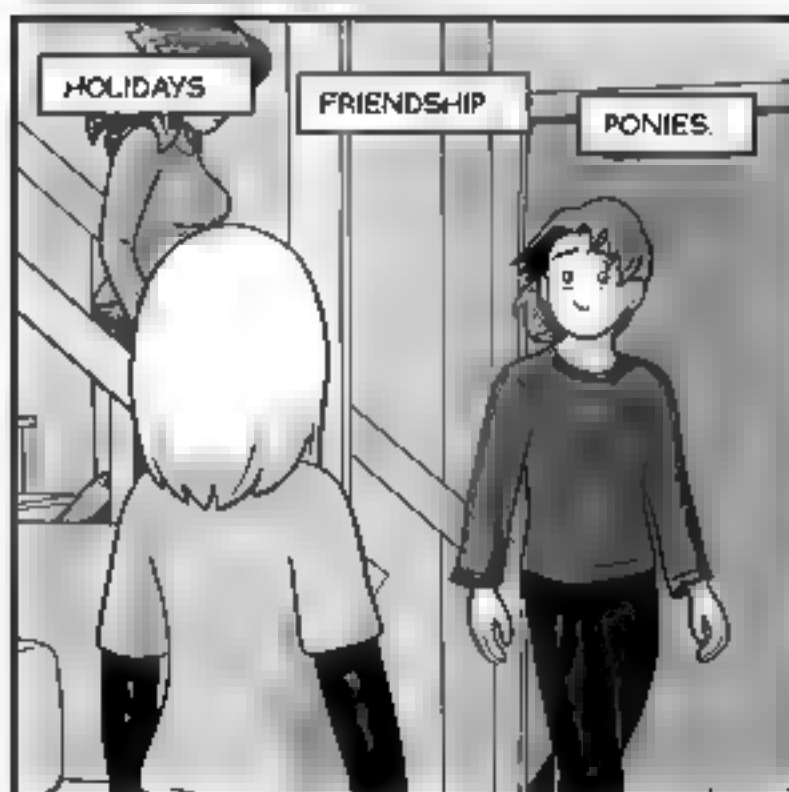
YOU ARE  
SUCH A GOOD  
DISTRACTION.

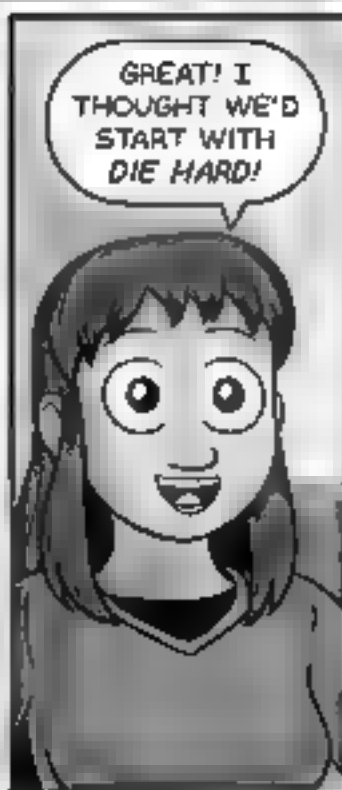
I'M GOOD  
AT WHAT  
NOW?

ANNND  
RECORD.











I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO WATCH CHRISTMAS SPECIALS.

WHAT DO-- WAIT DOES THAT TERM NOT APPLY TO MOVIES?



GRACE THAT MOVIE ONLY TAKES PLACE AT CHRISTMAS TIME IT'S ACTUALLY ABOUT AN OFF DUTY COP FIGHTING TERRORISTS. IT'S PRETTY VIOLENT



I KNOW I READ THE BACK OF THE BOX ALSO. IT'S RATED "R" AND CALLED "DIE HARD"

UH... SORRY I'M JUST SURPRISED YOU'D WANT TO SEE SOMETHING LIKE THAT



I'VE READ THE SEVENTH HARRY POTTER BOOK I CAN HANDLE THIS.

I'VE HEARD IT'S REALLY GOOD I KNOW THERE'LL BE MOMENTS I WON'T LIKE BUT THOSE ARE THE MOMENTS THAT MAKE THE TRIUMPHS OF THE GOOD GUYS SO SATISFYING.



AND YEAH. I'M NON-VIOLENT TO MAYBE A FAULT, BUT THAT'S BECAUSE REAL LIFE HAS REAL CONSEQUENCES. AND I REALLY DON'T WANT TO HURT PEOPLE.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T HAVE MOMENTS WHEN I FEEL LIKE HITTING THINGS.



AND DIE HARD IS A MOVIE I CAN ENJOY BAD GUYS GETTING CLOBBERED WITHOUT ANY OF THE HORRIBLE HORRIBLE GUILT!



SO! DIE HARD?

**DIE HARD!**

December 26th

An instant message conversation is once again being represented by the chatters dressed up as their avatars

This is due to the undeniable fact that just showing people typing at their computers would be the worst thing ever

It has absolutely nothing to do with it effectively being the perfect excuse for Justin and Susan to dress up like it was Halloween time instead of Christmas time



REMIND ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE *FALLOUT* GAMES SOMETIME. HOW WAS YOUR CHRISTMAS?

PRETTY GOOD. ACTUALLY I SPENT MOST OF IT WATCHING SURPRISINGLY NOT AWFUL CARTOONS WITH MY COUSINS YOU?

ALSO GOOD GOT SOME GOOD STUFF AND MY EXTENDED FAMILY. MOSTLY GOT ALONG.

THAT'S GOOD

YEP HEY ARE YOU ALONE RIGHT NOW?

YEAH. WHY?

CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING PERSONAL?

I SUPPOSE WHAT IS IT?

ARE YOU ATTRACTED TO ELLIOT?

I AM  
ATTRACTED  
TO MEN.

IS THAT A DIG AT  
HIS TRANSFORMING?

NO. I'M SAYING I'M A HETEROSEXUAL  
YOUNG WOMAN. AND LIKE ANYONE ELSE  
MY AGE I HAVE OVERACTIVE HORMONES.

OF THE THREE MEN MY AGE WHO I REGULARLY SPEND  
TIME WITH, ELLIOT IS THE ONLY HETEROSEXUAL WHO'S NOT  
TEDD OF COURSE PART OF ME WANTS TO BE WITH HIM.

SO YOU ARE  
ATTRACTED TO HIM.

ARE YOU SURE? I'VE SEEN  
YOU TWO TOGETHER, AND  
I'VE WATCHED EVERY  
EPISODE OF YOUR SHOW  
YOU TWO HAVE CHEMISTRY

WELL, YES. WE'RE FRIENDS, AND I'M  
NOT GOING TO RUIN MY FRIENDSHIP  
WITH HIM AND SARAH BY ACTING ON  
MINDLESS HORMONES.

I WASN'T SAYING  
YOU SHOULD.

YES BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN  
ANYTHING IT'S PRIMITIVE  
INSTINCTS BEING PRIMITIVE

GOOD. BECAUSE I FULLY INTEND TO KEEP MY  
FEELINGS UNDER CONTROL I'VE EVEN CREATED A  
LIST OF THINGS TO AVOID DOING SO I DON'T SO  
MUCH AS ACCIDENTALLY SEDUCE ELLIOT

YOU SERIOUSLY MADE A LIST

YES I'LL SEND  
YOU A COPY

HOW DOES ONE  
"ACCIDENTALLY" DRESS UP  
AS COUNSELOR TROI?

COSTUME  
PARTIES  
EXIST

SO YOU'RE  
NOT GOING  
TO ACT ON  
IT?

OF COURSE NOT  
EVEN IF I WANTED  
TO. I WOULDN'T  
BETRAY SARAH.

YEAH, THAT WOULD BE WRONG. BUT  
WHAT IF THEY BREAK UP SOMEDAY?



SUSAN?



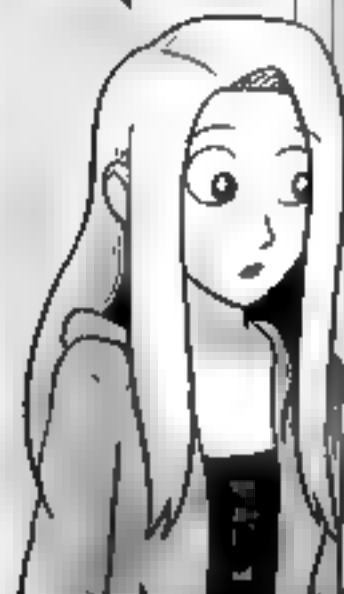
SORRY I WAS AWAY FROM THE  
KEYBOARD STILL A BETRAYAL,  
AND I DON'T EVEN WANT TO  
THINK ABOUT WHAT THAT  
COULD DO TO OUR GROUP

BESIDES, WHAT KIND OF PERSON  
LURKS AROUND LIKE A VULTURE  
WAITING FOR A COUPLE TO BREAK UP?



Meanwhile

YOU'RE SURE RHODA?



PRETTY SURE HOW  
MANY ELLIOTS WITH REVIEW  
SHOWS IN MOPERVILLE CAN  
THERE BE?



AND YOU WATCH IT?

YEP! ONE OF  
CATALINA'S FRIENDS  
IS THE CO-HOST

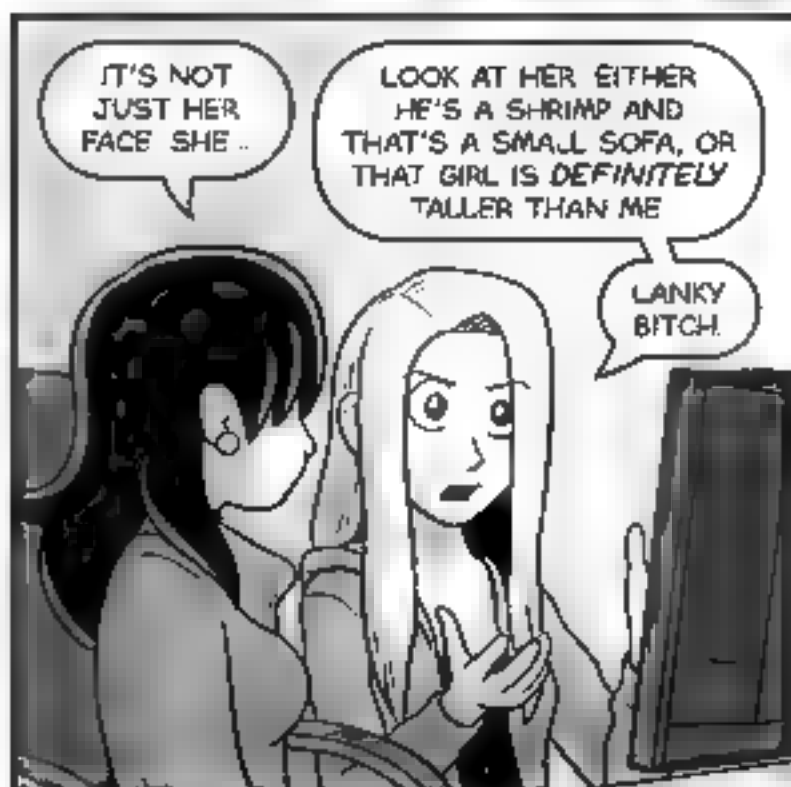
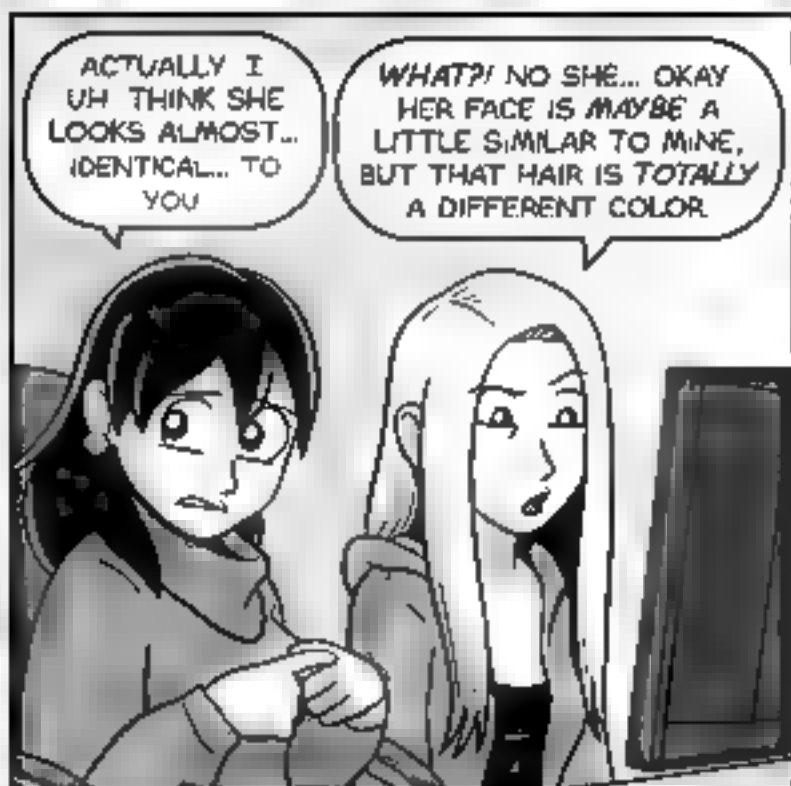
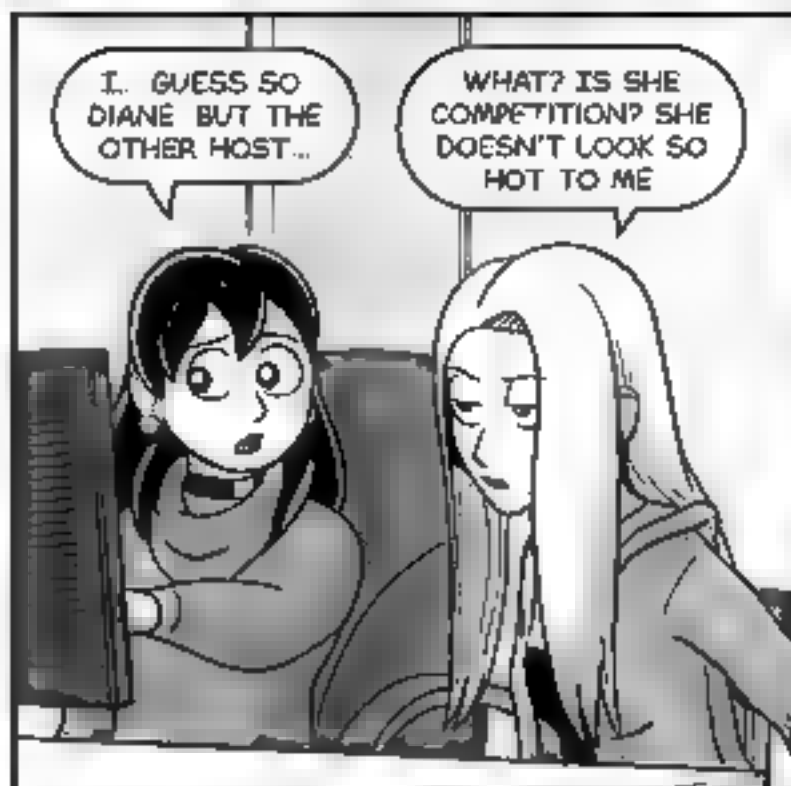


ARE YOU EVER GOING  
TO INTRODUCE ME  
TO THIS "CATALINA"  
FRIEND OF YOURS?

SHE'S  
JM... SHY



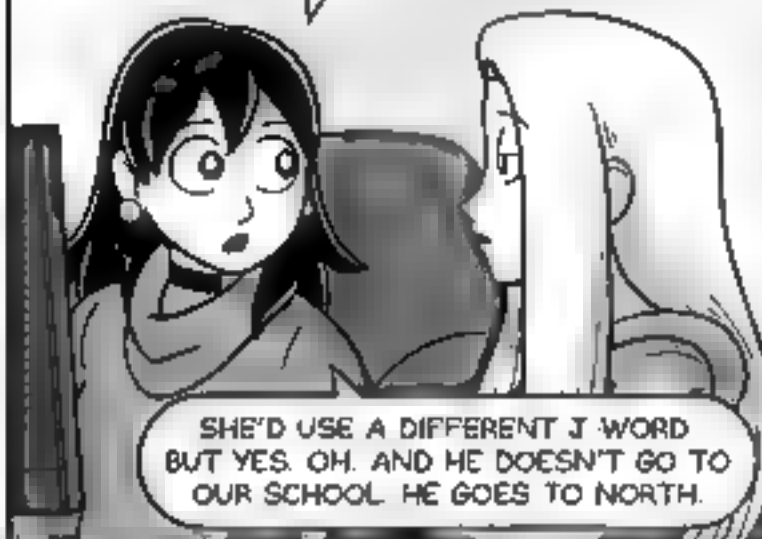




ENOUGH ABOUT LANKY  
WHAT CAN YOU TELL  
ME ABOUT HIM THAT I  
WON'T LEARN BY  
WATCHING HIS SHOW?



UM. WELL. CATALINA  
SAYS HE'S A DECENT  
GUY AND HER ATTITUDE  
TOWARDS MEN IS A  
LOT LIKE YOURS.



"JERKS UNTIL  
PROVEN NOT-  
JERKS?"

SHE'D USE A DIFFERENT J WORD  
BUT YES. OH. AND HE DOESN'T GO TO  
OUR SCHOOL HE GOES TO NORTH.

HM. WELL, THAT'S  
A COMPLICATION.  
STILL HE WOULDN'T  
BE ABLE TO BUG ME  
AT SCHOOL... MAYBE  
THAT'S A PERK



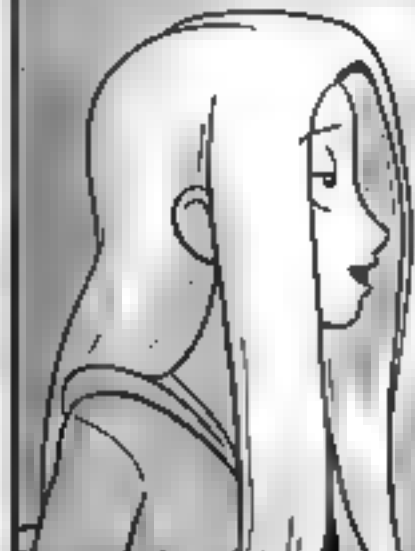
ANYTHING  
ELSE?

I'M NOT SURE I DON'T  
REALLY UNDERSTAND  
WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING  
FOR OR WHY YOU WANT  
TO DATE HIM.

OR ANY  
GUY  
REALLY



SOMEDAY, RHODA?  
I'M GOING TO MEET THE  
MAN OF MY DREAMS.



HE'LL BE RICH AND HANDSOME  
KIND AND COMPASSIONATE,  
INDEPENDENT AND ASSERTIVE. AND  
DO EVERYTHING I TELL HIM TO DO

THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO  
SCORE A MAN LIKE THAT WITHOUT  
A LOT OF DATING EXPERIENCE THIS  
"ELLIOT" MIGHT NOT BE THAT MAN,  
BUT HE SOUNDS CLOSER THAN  
MOST HE'LL MAKE GOOD PRACTICE



AND IF NOT HE  
COULD STILL BUY  
ME STUFF

WHAT IF YOU JUST FALL IN LOVE  
WITH SOMEONE SOMEDAY AND  
THEY FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU?

THAT'S  
ADORABLE





MAYBE I'M MISSING SOMETHING. BUT...

NO NO YOU'RE RIGHT THE MOVIE COMPLETELY UNDERMINES ITS OWN MORAL

REALLY? OH MAN. I'M GIVING MYSELF A COOKIE RIGHT NOW



I WATCHED WHAT YOU TOLD ME TO WATCH!

YOU WATCHED A SEQUEL! WE WERE SUPPOSED TO WATCH THE ORIGINAL!

WHY DID THEY NAME THE SEQUEL THE SAME THING AS THE ORIGINAL?!

EVIL MARKETING.



NOW I'M NOT STRICTLY ANTI-VIOLENCE

OF COURSE NOT YOU'RE A MARTIAL ARTIST YOU PUNCH THINGS.

I DO PUNCH THINGS. CHECK OUT MY ABS!

YOU GOT TONED ABS BY PUNCHING THINGS?



WHY DID WE WATCH THIS?!

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHY IT ONLY GOT A FOUR PERCENT APPROVAL RATING!

WHY DID WE PLAY GOD?!



WHY SHOULD I LIE ABOUT THAT? SOME MOVIES MAKE ME CRY

I KNOW BUT WE COULD'VE JOKED ABOUT IT

I DON'T WANT TO FEED THE MALE STEREOTYPES!

FEED THEM!



NO!


EAT THEM UP!

I DON'T WAIT AM I FEEDING SOMETHING OR EATING SOMETHING?


I HAVE NO IDEA.

HEH HEH HEH





SO. WHAT  
JUST LIKE..  
SEXY STUFF?




I DON'T KNOW MAN. THERE ARE  
CENTURIES WORTH OF POETS  
TRYING TO SORT THAT STUFF OUT  
I CAN BARELY EVEN RHYME.



ME AND  
GRACE?




WHAT ABOUT  
YOU AND GRACE?




WHEN GRACE FIRST  
SHOWED UP I THINK SHE  
MOSTLY LIKED THAT I WAS  
A BOY HER AGE WHO WAS  
NICE AND WASN'T LIKE A  
SIBLING TO HER.

I THINK I  
MOSTLY LIKED  
THAT SHE WAS  
A WOMAN AND  
IN MY HOUSE.




THEN WE GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER  
BETTER, AND.. SHE'S GREAT SHE'S  
SMART FUNNY CUTE KIND-HEARTED  
AND SHE GETS ME LIKE REALLY GETS  
ME BETTER THAN I DO.


THERE'S  
NOBODY I'D  
RATHER BE  
WITH.



SO IT WASN'T LOVE  
AT FIRST SIGHT IT  
WAS SOMETHING YOU  
HAD TO WORK AT



EH, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE THE HOWS  
AND THE WHYS. GRACE AND I FELL IN LOVE. I  
DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHEN OR HOW OR IF IT  
WAS AT THE SAME MOMENT OR WHAT I JUST  
KNOW SHE'S AWESOME AND THAT WE ARE



WHY ARE YOU  
EVEN ASKING  
ABOUT

WAIT











**T  
H  
W  
U  
M  
P**



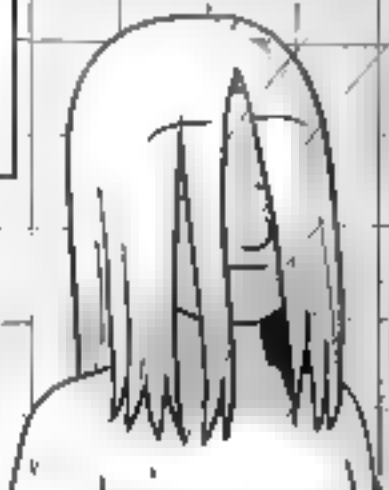


A change of location and a little hesitation later



THAT'S GOTTA  
BE WHAT IT IS!  
A NEUTRAL  
LOCATION THAT  
STILL OFFERS  
PRIVACY?

HE *MUST*  
WANT TO  
BREAK UP  
WITH ME!



I WAS ALL  
WORRIED ABOUT  
HOW I WAS  
GOING TO DO  
IT WITHOUT  
HURTING HIM,  
BUT IF HE'S  
GOING TO DO IT  
WE'RE *BOTH* IN  
THE CLEAR!



ALTHOUGH  
I GUESS IT  
IS A LITTLE  
ANNOYING THAT  
HE'S TAKING  
THE INITIATIVE  
ON *THIS* AND  
DIDN'T ON  
OTHER  
THINGS.



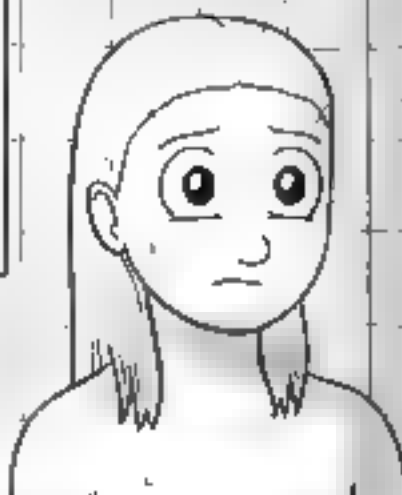
AND WHY DOES  
HE WANT TO  
BREAK UP WITH  
ME? WHAT DID I  
DO WRONG? WAS  
I A BAD GIRL-  
FRIEND? WAS I  
TOO PUSHY?



AM I NOT  
PRETTY  
ENOUGH? IS  
THAT WHY HE  
HARDLY EVER  
TOOK THE  
INITIATIVE?



HE TOLD  
ME I WAS  
BEAUTIFUL.  
WAS THAT A  
LIE? DOES HE  
EVEN WANT  
TO STAY  
FRIENDS?



Some washing, dressing, and a drive later

**DING-  
DONG**

OKAY ELLIOT  
YOU CAN DO  
THIS. DO NOT  
WUSS OUT!





THOSE EYES. DOES SHE  
KNOW WHAT THIS IS? YOU  
CAN STILL DO THIS, ELLIOT!  
YOU *HAVE* TO DO THIS!

WE'RE  
TALKING  
IN THIS  
ROOM?

UH. YEAH. I  
FIGURED IT'D BE  
BETTER THAN THE  
UM. BEDROOM.

UH-HUH. SO...  
WHAT DO WE NEED  
TO TALK ABOUT?

INHALE

WE HAVE  
TO BREAK  
UP

YOU'RE MY OLDEST FRIEND  
AND YOU MEAN A LOT TO ME  
AND I WANT TO STAY FRIENDS  
FOREVER AND EVER..

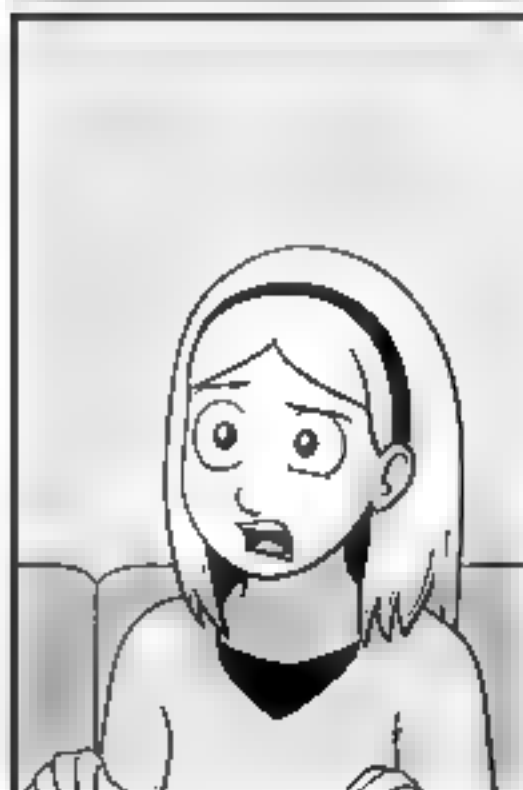
BUT WE  
CAN'T KEEP  
DATING EACH  
OTHER

WHY DO WE "HAVE"  
TO BREAK UP?

UH... WELL, I REALIZED  
THAT... WHILE I DO  
LOVE YOU IN A  
WAY, IT'S. UH..

YOU'RE  
LIKE A  
SISTER  
TO ME

WHAT



DO YOU NEED A  
MOMENT? I NEEDED A  
MOMENT AND THEN I  
FELL ON THE FLOOR

NO  
I THE  
FLOOR?

YEAH, THIS ALL SORT  
OF HIT ME LIKE A TON OF  
BRICKS. I... NEVER REALLY  
APPRECIATED THAT  
EXPRESSION BEFORE...

SARAH, I'M  
SORRY I  
NEVER WANTED  
TO HURT YOU

YOU WANT  
TO STAY  
FRIENDS.

YES! YES YES  
YES. FRIENDS  
FOREVER.

AND FRIENDS  
SHOULD BE  
HONEST WITH  
EACH OTHER.

UM... WELL.  
YES. THAT'S WHY  
I'M TELLING YOU  
ALL THIS.

I MET WITH NANASE ON MONDAY I  
MADE HER SWEAR TO SECRECY BEFORE  
ASKING HER FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO BREAK  
UP WITH YOU WHILE STAYING FRIENDS.

ZA?

YEAH THAT'S  
PRETTY MUCH  
WHERE I WAS  
AFTER YOU  
CALLED ME

YOU WERE  
ALREADY GOING  
TO BREAK UP  
WITH ME ?

I REALIZED I WAS HAPPIER WITH  
OUR RELATIONSHIP WHEN WE WERE  
JUST FRIENDS. IT DIDN'T SEEM  
LIKE THERE WAS MUCH ACTUAL  
ROMANCE BETWEEN US, WHICH I  
GUESS MAKES SENSE NOW

I PUT OFF GOING THROUGH  
WITH IT BECAUSE I DIDN'T  
WANT YOU TO ASSOCIATE THE  
HOLIDAYS WITH BREAKING UP

AND POSSIBLY BECAUSE  
I HAVE A TENDENCY TO  
PROCRASTINATE

YEUGH.. I WANT TO BE UPSET BUT ..  
I WASN'T VERY ROMANTIC. AND THIS  
WOULD'VE GONE WORSE IF YOU'D BROKEN  
UP WITH ME BEFORE TODAY AND I'M  
ALREADY BREAKING UP WITH YOU

OUR EMOTIONS HAVE THEIR  
OWN SET OF LOGIC. IT'S OKAY  
FOR YOU TO BE UPSET WITH  
ME A LOT OF GUYS WOULD BE  
FLIPPING OUT RIGHT NOW

I GUESS I'M  
REALLY NOT A  
BAD GUY

WHO THE HELL  
THOUGHT YOU WERE  
A BAD GUY?

ME

WELL,  
YOU'RE A  
DUMMY



SO THIS IS IT  
WE'RE BROKEN UP

AND WE'RE  
STILL FRIENDS.

YEP

HELL YEP



NO ONE IS EVER  
GOING TO BELIEVE  
OUR BREAK UP WENT  
THIS SMOOTHLY

EH. SPECIAL  
CIRCUMSTANCES  
WE BOTH WANTED  
THE SAME THING.



NOBODY'S GONNA BUY  
THAT WE SHOULD SAY  
YOU THREW STUFF AT  
ME AND CHASED ME OUT  
OF MY OWN HOUSE

OH. SURE.  
MAKE ME THE  
CRAZY ONE



WELL, WE CAN'T  
SAY I THREW STUFF AT  
YOU. I'M A GUY PEOPLE  
WOULD FLIP OUT

HMPH. FINE  
BUT ONLY IF WE  
SAY I THREW A  
COUCH AT YOU



YOU THREW A  
COUCH AT ME

A BIG ONE I  
WAS POWERED BY  
FEMININE RAGE



AND THEN WE CALMED  
DOWN AND TALKED IT  
THROUGH AFTER YOU  
THREW THE COUCH?

NO. I THREW  
MORE COUCHES  
AFTER THAT

...YES, I'M SURE  
WE EVEN SPECIFICALLY  
SAY IT IN SEVERAL OF  
OUR REVIEWS.

I FIGURED  
THAT WAS LIKE,  
"ME THINKS SHE  
PROTEST ETH  
TOO MUCH-ETH"  
OR WHATEVER

ELLIOT AND I ARE  
JUST FRIENDS. HE HAS  
A GIRLFRIEND WHO'S NOT  
ME AND HAPPENS TO BE  
MY BEST FRIEND.

NOT  
REALLY  
NO.

NOW DO YOU  
WANT TO RENT SOME-  
THING OR NOT?

HEY  
SUSAN.

SARAH! WHAT'S UP?

WELL, JM. I KNOW YOU  
WORK LATE TONIGHT BUT  
ARE YOU FREE TOMORROW?  
I'D REALLY LIKE IT IF WE  
COULD HANG OUT AND EAT  
ICE CREAM AND STUFF

UH YEAH,  
I'M FREE. IS  
SOMETHING  
WRONG?

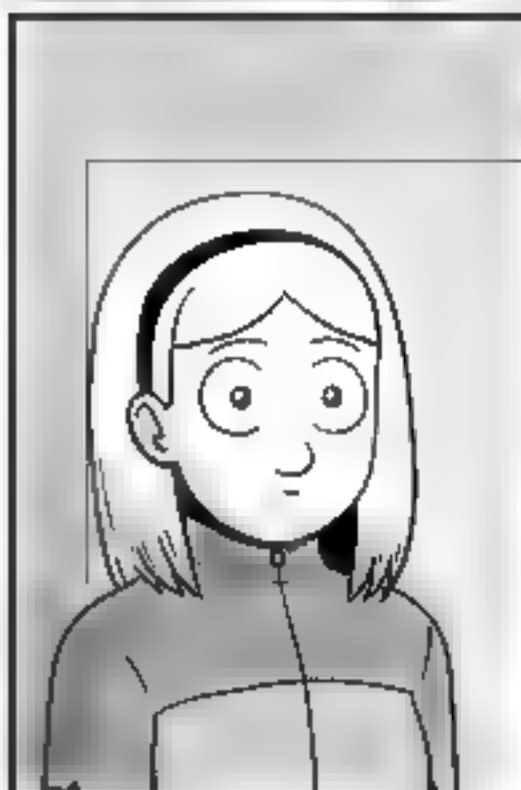
NO  
EVERYTHING'S  
FINE BUT  
IT'S STILL.

ELLIOT AND  
I BROKE UP

PLOT  
TWIST



After some exciting recapping



DAMN. I'M IMPRESSED. I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO IMMEDIATELY BREAK UP WITH HER LIKE THAT

THERE WASN'T A GOOD REASON TO PUT IT OFF

WELL, EXCEPT MAYBE THE RISK OF RUINING HOLIDAYS, BUT I HADN'T EVEN THOUGHT OF THAT

SO WHAT NOW? I ASSUME YOU'RE NOT ASKING SUSAN OUT

DEFINITELY NOT

EVEN IF I IGNORED THAT SARAH IS HER BEST FRIEND. WHICH I'M NOT

I'VE SPENT THE LAST FEW MONTHS THINKING IT WAS WRONG TO THINK OF ANY WOMAN WHO WASN'T SARAH IN, UH, THAT WAY

FOR ALL I KNOW NOW THAT I'M UNLEASHED, I'LL WIND UP FEELING THAT WAY ABOUT SEVERAL WOMEN. I NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW I REALLY FEEL... BEFORE I.

ARE YOU GIGGLING?

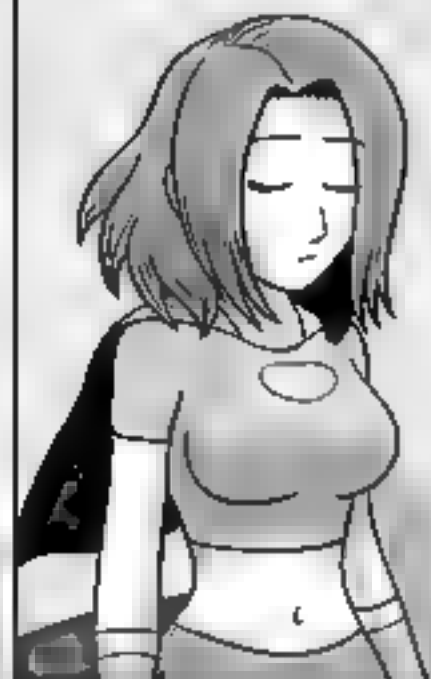
I-I'M SORRY IT'S JUST "UNLEASHED"! WATCH OUT LADIES! ELLIOT'S ON THE PROWL!

NO NO. I'M JUST SURVEYING FROM THE TALL GRASS! I'M NOT READY TO POUNCE ON ANYTHING!

WATCH OUT FOR POKÉBALLS!

ANYWAY AS FOR RIGHT NOW "WHAT NOW" I'M EMOTIONALLY EXHAUSTED I'M TAKING A BREAK FROM MYSELF

A BREAK FROM YOURSELF?



YOU HAVE TO BE IN YOUR "PARTY" FORM FOR THAT?

I'M BETTING VIDEO GAMES ARE CRAZY FUN IN THIS FORM.



IT'S PROBABLY NOT WISE TO USE A MIND-BENDING TRANSFORMATION TO RELAX.

PROBABLY NOT MULTIPLAYER?

EH. SURE





End Of An Era - The end

SO IT WAS ALL  
AN INSURANCE SCAM!  
THANKS, GIRLS!



THE WEREGOAT WAS  
BUT A WEREMAN?! ER.  
MAN. BUT A MAN.

GOOD WORK,  
LADIES.



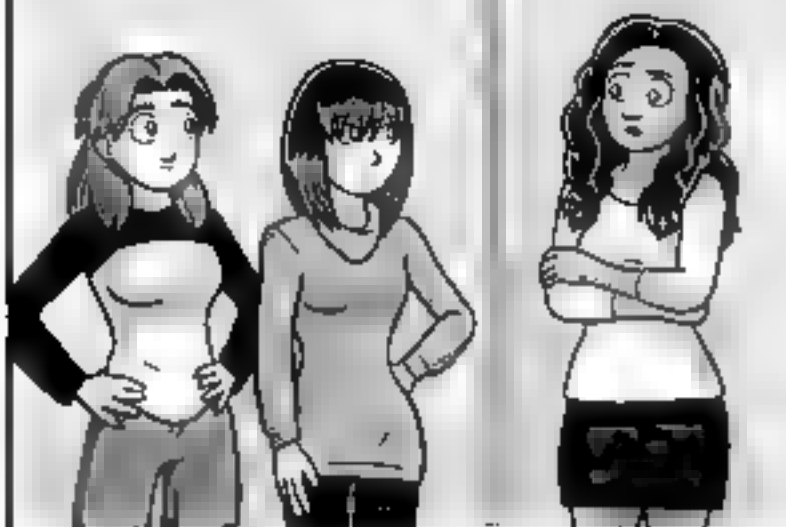
THANK YOU SO MUCH!  
I DON'T KNOW HOW  
OUR PRIZED LOCKPICKING  
GORILLA ESCAPED BUT



**YOU SAVED THE VILLAGE!**

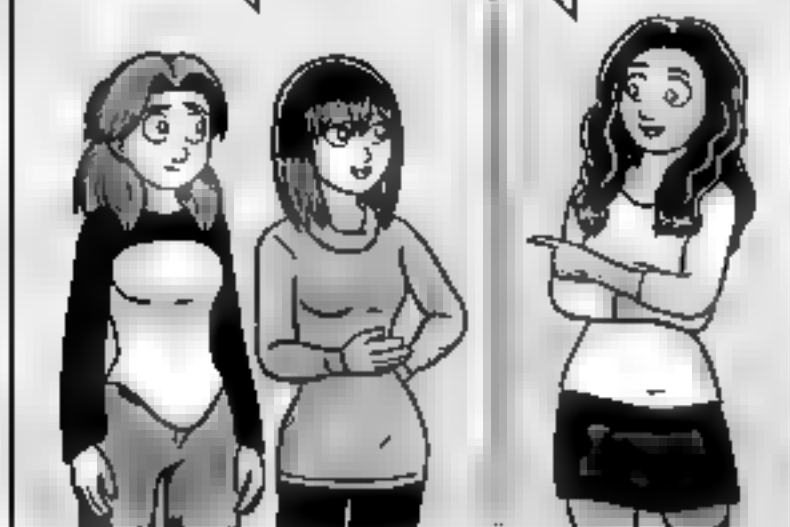



I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY TRIED  
TO PREY ON OUR PLAYERS' SUPER-  
STITIONS WITH FAKE GHOSTS!




BELIEVE IT  
OR NOT RHEA?  
WE'VE SEEN  
STRANGER.

WELL, ANYWAY THANK  
YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR  
HELP! HEY DO YOU TWO  
HAVE PLANS FOR NEW  
YEARS EVE?






<THANK YOU IT'LL MAKE THINGS MUCH SIMPLER IF I DRIVE AND THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME GO TO THIS PARTY AT ALL. MOM.>\*




<JUST BE SURE TO HONOR MY CONDITIONS, ESPECIALLY WITH YOU DRIVING>



<I WASN'T PLANNING TO TRY ALCOHOL FOR THE FIRST TIME WHILE SURROUNDED BY A BUNCH OF COLLEGE STUDENTS, ANYWAY>

\* Translated from Japanese (Probably)




<REALLY? AND ARE THERE CONDITIONS IN WHICH YOU WOULD DRINK?>

<YES.>



<...> <WHAT>

<IF I WAS SOMEWHERE I FELT SAFE WITH PEOPLE I TRUSTED IT'S POSSIBLE I WOULD TELL YOU AND DAD IF I DID. THOUGH. AND IT WON'T BE TONIGHT>



<I BELIEVE YOU I MUST SAY, I CONTINUE TO BE ASTONISHED BY HOW... HONEST YOU'VE BECOME>


<SHE'S LIKE APPLEJACK!>



<DID YOU JUST COMPARE ME TO A HORSE?>


<NO I COMPARED YOU TO A PONY! BIG DIFFERENCE>






<AKIKO. GO PLAY I NEED TO DISCUSS  
SOMETHING WITH NANASE>

<I'M GOING TO SAVE ALL  
OF THE PRINCESSES!>




<I WANT YOU TO KNOW  
THAT I'M PROUD THAT YOU HAVE  
BEEN HELPING PEOPLE. >


<"BUT"?>




<BUT I WORRY ABOUT  
YOU GETTING HURT IT IS  
ADMIRABLE TO HELP THOSE  
IN NEED BUT YOU ARE  
DEVELOPING A REPUTATION.>



<I KNOW IT'S  
NATURAL FOR YOU TO  
WORRY BUT WE'RE NOT  
DEFENSELESS, AND IT'S  
A GOOD REPUTATION.>




<YES BUT YOU ARE MAKING  
ENEMIES AND DRAWING A LOT  
OF ATTENTION TO YOURSELF  
IT COULD BE DANGEROUS>



<IF ANYTHING  
OUR REPUTATION  
SHOULD KEEP  
PEOPLE FROM  
WANTING TO  
MESS WITH US.>

<DON'T WORRY  
MOM. ELLEN  
AND I CAN  
TAKE CARE OF  
OURSELVES.>



<PERHAPS. BUT IF YOU GET IN OVER YOUR  
HEAD. I WANT YOU TO CALL YOUR UNCLE  
I'M.. NOT SURE WHAT HE DOES AT THE  
FBI BUT I'M SURE HE COULD HELP>

<THAT'S.  
PROBABLY A  
SAFE BET>



SO,  
YOU'RE  
DRIVING.

UM, YEAH SO  
ELLIOT CAN DRIVE  
HIS CAR. YOU JUST  
NOTICED THIS?

I'M JUST SAYING  
THAT ONE COULD  
SAY YOU'RE A  
DESIGNATED  
DRIVER?

BUT

IT'S ILLEGAL, AND  
MY MOM SAID I  
COULD GO TO THE  
PARTY ON THE  
CONDITION THAT  
WE DON'T DRINK

NO.

AND RUN AWAY IF  
WE SEE DRUG USE

HM. I GUESS I DID  
AGREE TO GO ALONG  
WITH WHATEVER HER  
CONDITIONS WERE...

WE SMOOCHED ON  
IT NO BACKSIES.

BUT WHAT IF I USED MY COPY SPELL TO  
MAKE ME LOOK LIKE SOMEONE ELSE FOR A BIT?  
TECHNICALLY IT WOULDN'T BE ME DRINKING!  
IT'D BE LIKE A SECOND RHEA DRINKING.

I THINK THERE ARE SOME  
PROBLEMS WITH THAT PLAN.

IT'S FINE

AND WHEN  
PEOPLE SEE  
TWO RHEAS?

THEY WON'T! I'LL  
ZAP HER WITH MY  
V5 BEAM TO KEEP  
US FROM BEING  
IDENTICAL

SO  
IT'S THE  
PERFECT  
PLAN.

YEP!



UH ARE  
YOU SURE WE'RE  
IN THE RIGHT  
PLACE?

GPS DOESN'T  
OKAY MY GPS IS  
A DIRTY LIAR,  
BUT THESE ARE  
THE RIGHT  
APARTMENTS.



THESE DON'T LOOK  
LIKE APARTMENT BUILDINGS.  
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE  
BIG ASS RECTANGLES  
WITH WINDOWS.

THESE LOOK LIKE  
BIG ASS HOUSES.



YOU'RE THINKING OF BIG  
CITY APARTMENTS I'VE BEEN  
IN PLACES LIKE THIS BEFORE  
THERE'LL BE MORE THAN ONE  
APARTMENT PER BUILDING

NOW WHERE ARE THE  
APARTMENT NUMBERS ON  
THESE MONSTROSITIES ?



EVEN SO THEY MUST BE  
HUGE APARTMENTS. WHAT  
KIND OF COLLEGE STUDENT  
CAN AFFORD A PLACE LIKE



WAIT ARE THESE FRAT  
HOUSES? ARE WE GOING  
TO A FRAT PARTY?



RHEA'S A  
WOMAN. SHE'D BE  
IN A SORORITY




ARE WE GOING TO A  
SORORITY PARTY?!




I'M FAIRLY  
CERTAIN WE'RE  
NOT

IT'LL BE EMBARRASSING  
IF WE ARE. I DIDN'T BRING  
ANY PILLOWS OR PAJAMAS.




YOU'RE ACTUALLY THE FIRST  
TO ARRIVE NOT COUNTING MY  
ROOMMATES AND SISTER

WOW  
APARTMENT  
STAIRS.



OH, YEAH. IF ONE WERE  
FEELING CHARITABLE I GUESS  
THEY COULD CALL THIS LITTLE  
ENTRYWAY OUR BASEMENT

MOVING FURNITURE IN  
MUST'VE BEEN FUN.



ALL SORTS OF  
FUN! COMPLETE WITH  
TWO OF MY ROOM-  
MATES REPEATEDLY  
QUOTING ROSS FROM  
FRIENDS.


"PIVOT!"

"PIVOT!"



STILL, CAN'T COMPLAIN.  
THREE BEDROOMS. LOTS  
OF ROOM...

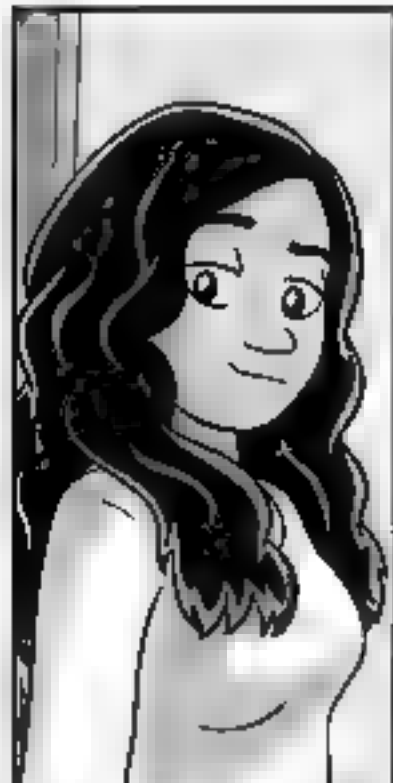
GRANTED WITH  
THREE ROOMMATES  
AND MYSELF WE NEED  
THE ROOM. BUT IT'S  
STILL AWESOME



ANYWAY I BELIEVE  
YOU'VE MET MY SISTER.



HELLOOOOO







WELL YES. AS  
OF TODAY I AM  
OFFICIALLY AN  
ADULT



NOT YET,  
YOU'RE  
NOT!

KNOCK IT OFF  
NOBODY CARES  
WHAT TIME I  
WAS BORN.



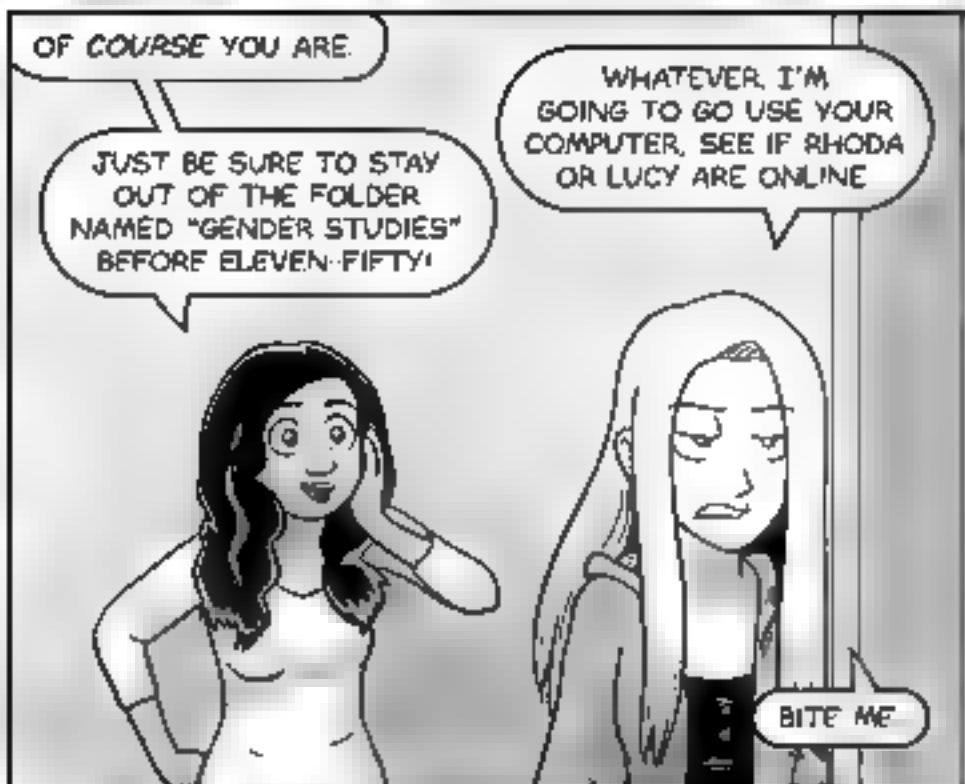
WE DO!  
WE'RE  
CURIOUS!

WE FIND  
CHRONOLOGICAL  
TRIVIA SUPER  
INTERESTING!



WELL THEN! LITTLE  
DIANE HERE WAS  
BORN TEN MINUTES  
BEFORE MIDNIGHT

WHICH  
IS STILL  
TODAY  
ADULT



OF COURSE YOU ARE.

JUST BE SURE TO STAY  
OUT OF THE FOLDER  
NAMED "GENDER STUDIES"  
BEFORE ELEVEN-FIFTY!

WHATEVER, I'M  
GOING TO GO USE YOUR  
COMPUTER. SEE IF RHODA  
OR LUCY ARE ONLINE

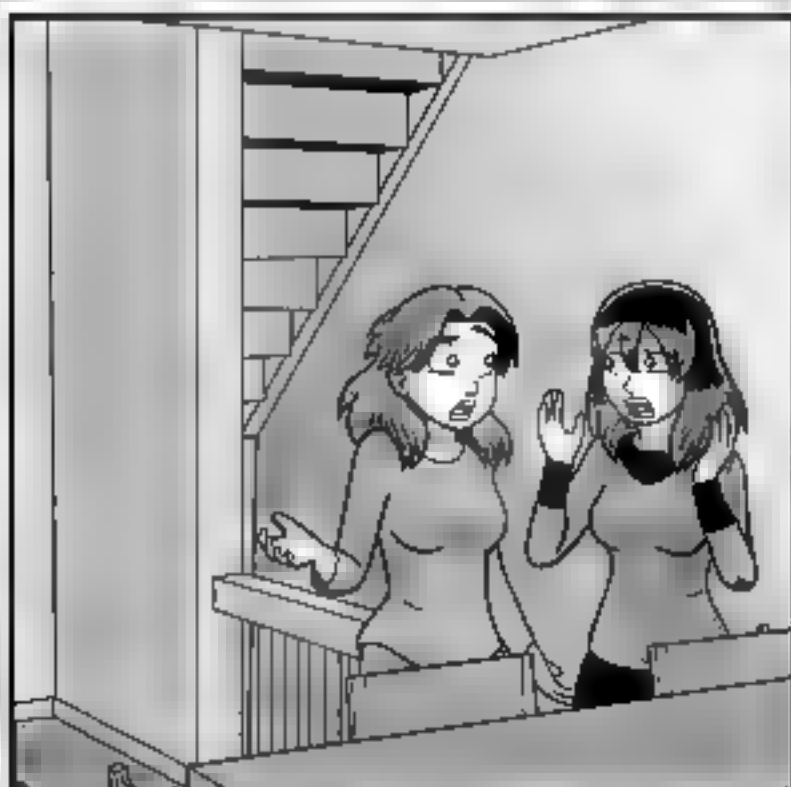
BITE ME



HEHE. I'VE GOT A COUPLE THINGS  
TO TAKE CARE OF BEFORE OTHER  
GUESTS ARRIVE. HAVE A LOOK AROUND!  
MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE.

OKAY!

THANKS!





And now, a fancy visual representation of Diane chatting on the interwebs!

Because typing is boring.



Type  
Type  
Type

DIANE! HELLO!  
HOW'S THE PARTY!

HASN'T STARTED YET IS  
THAT CATALINA WITH YOU  
IN YOUR AVATAR?



OH, YES. JUST BUDDIES JOKING  
AROUND IN A PHOTO BOOTH.  
YOU KNOW HOW IT IS.

UH-HUH.



THE LOVEBIRDS ARE STILL IN THEIR ROOM. I'M  
NOT SURE IF THE GEEK IS EVEN GOING TO  
COME DOWNSTAIRS. AND THE ONLY GUESTS  
WHO'VE SHOWN UP YET ARE THE MEDDLERS.

OH! I GUESS YOU'RE  
GOING TO TRY AND BE EXTRA  
NICE TO ELLEN, HUH?



WHY  
WOULD I DO  
THAT?

DIDN'T I TELL YOU? SHE'S  
ELLIOT'S SISTER. SHE'S  
PROBABLY YOUR BEST SHOT  
AT MEETING ELLIOT



SERIOUSLY? WAIT  
IF THEY'RE SIBLINGS,  
WHY DO THEY GO TO  
DIFFERENT SCHOOLS?

I DON'T KNOW  
GRACE ABRUPTLY  
CHANGED THE  
SUBJECT AFTER  
TELLING ME.





SPEAKING OF CHANGING THE SUBJECT THIS REALLY IS AN AMAZING APARTMENT IT'S LIKE A HOUSE WITH A REALLY SMALL SECOND FLOOR

IT IS PRETTY SWEET



YOU'LL CAST IT AGAIN SOMEDAY

I HOPE NOT



WHAT? YOU DON'T WANT YOUR MAGIC BACK?

OH. I DO I JUST DON'T WANT TO GET IN ANOTHER BIG FIGHT

I'M SURE YOUR MAGIC WILL COME BACK EVEN WITHOUT A DRAMATIC MOMENT TO TRIGGER IT



THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. BEST I CAN FIGURE FROM MY SPELLBOOK, THE ANGEL SPELL HAS.. STRANGE RESTRICTIONS.

I CAN'T CAST OTHER SPELLS WHILE USING IT WHICH ISN'T THAT STRANGE IT'S GUARANTEED TO CAUSE A BURNOUT FOR AT LEAST A DAY WHICH IS A LITTLE STRANGER.



A DAY? IT'S BEEN MONTHS.

I WAS ALREADY A FAIRY DOLL SPELL AWAY FROM BURNING OUT THE FIRST TIME I USED IT I'M LUCKY I WASN'T HURT WORSE



STRANGEST OF ALL THOUGH? I CAN ONLY USE IT DEFENSIVELY I CAN'T JUST CAST IT WHEN I FEEL LIKE IT

IF I CAN CAST THAT SPELL? SOMEONE'S IN DANGER.

THAT'S... REALLY STRANGE. THE OTHER STUFF I FIGURE TEDD CAN TECHNO-BABBLE UP SOME REASONS WHY THOSE MAKE SENSE BUT THAT LAST ONE...

IT DOES PUT ME IN A SORT OF "COMBAT MODE" THEN BURN OUT MY MAGIC.

IT MIGHT JUST BE A BAD IDEA TO USE IT OUTSIDE OF A FIGHT

OH. WELL THAT MAKES SENSE

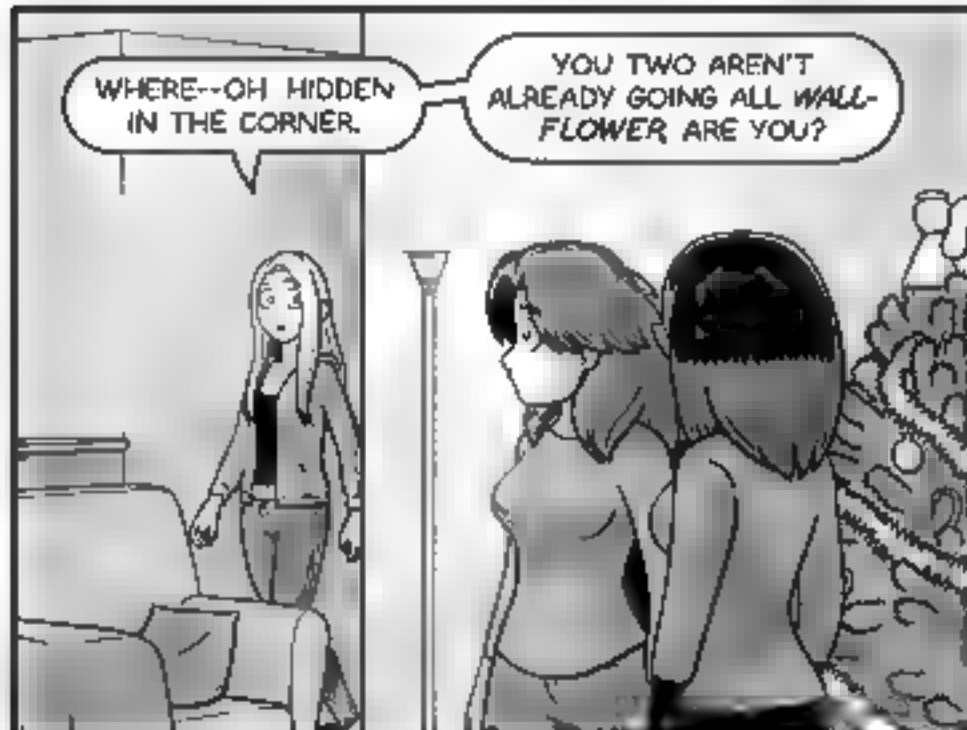
OF COURSE, THERE *IS* THAT OTHER POSSIBILITY

WHAT OTHER POSSIBILITY?

IT'S A SPELL THAT REQUIRES SACRIFICE CAN ONLY BE USED TO DEFEND, MAKES ME LOOK LIKE AN ANGEL, AND I GOT IT IMMEDIATELY AFTER ASKING GOD FOR HELP

YOU DON'T THINK

I DON'T KNOW BUT I THANKED GOD ALL THE SAME



WHERE--OH HIDDEN  
IN THE CORNER.

YOU TWO AREN'T  
ALREADY GOING ALL WALL-  
FLOWER ARE YOU?



WE ARE NOT  
WALLFLOWERS

TO BE FAIR.  
I CAN BE.

BUT THEN I GET MAD  
AT MYSELF FOR IT AND GET  
ALL LOUD AND SNARKY



RIGHT WELL... I'M SORRY  
IF I WAS RUDE EARLIER.  
THIS PARTY ISN'T EXACTLY  
WHERE I WANTED TO BE  
TODAY AND IT'S MADE  
ME A LITTLE IRRITABLE.



DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT IT I  
KNOW HOW IT  
CAN BE WITH  
FAMILY

I'M  
SURPRISED  
YOU GOT  
DRUNK!



I COULDN'T REALLY  
PICTURE IT AT FIRST  
BUT THEN I DID AND  
IT WAS FANTASTIC



I HAD A LITTLE TOO  
MUCH TO DRINK AT A  
PARTY EVERYONE WAS  
DRINKING. YOU KNOW  
HOW THAT IT IS.

ACTUALLY  
WE DON'T

I DO.  
DON'T SORT  
OF DO.

Previously, in another universe.



WHOOO~!



IT'S CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT TO MAKE ME GO TO THIS PARTY AND NOT LET ME DRINK. I'M GOING TO BE THE ONLY SOBER LOSER HERE

NO YOU'RE NOT

WE'RE GONNA BE SOBER LOSERS TOO!!!~

YOU ARE? YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY

IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL WE DON'T WANT TO DRINK.

NO WE DO NOT

AND YOU SHOULDN'T LET ANYONE PRESSURE YOU INTO IT, BUT BEING THE ONLY SOBER PEOPLE AT A PARTY LIKE THIS.

LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE ELLEN! I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE ELLIOT DUNKEL'S SISTER?

UM... YEAH. I AM. YOU KNOW ELLIOT?

NOT PERSONALLY, BUT I'VE SEEN EVERY EPISODE OF HIS REVIEW SHOW! I THINK IT'S GREAT!

YOU'VE WATCHED HIS SHOW?!

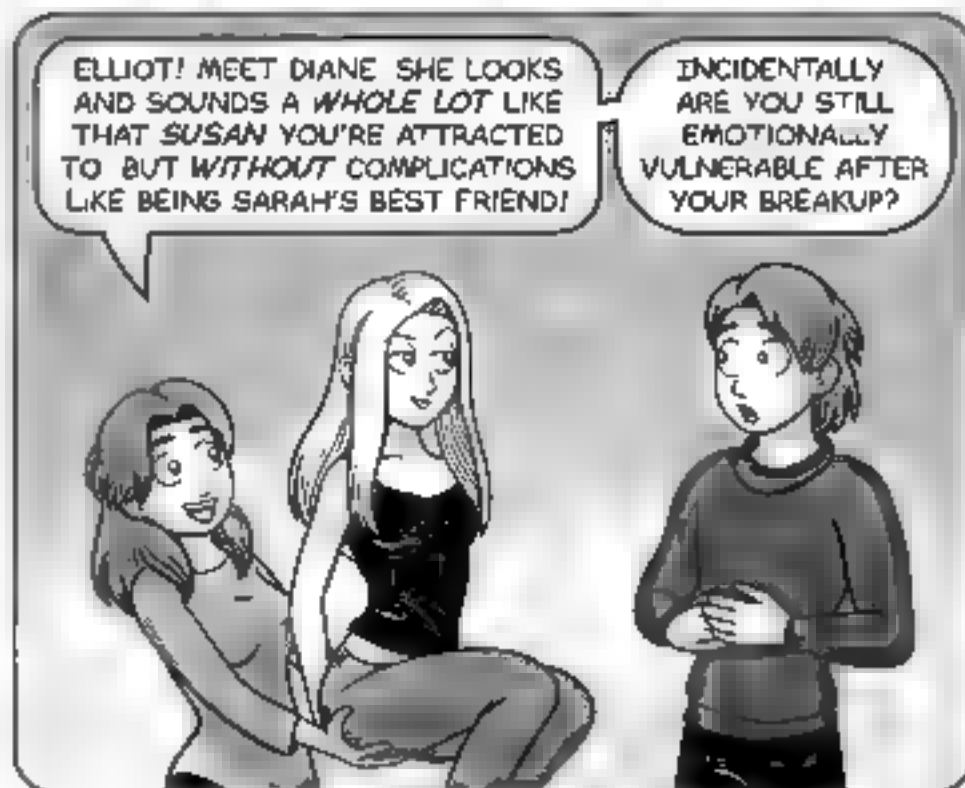
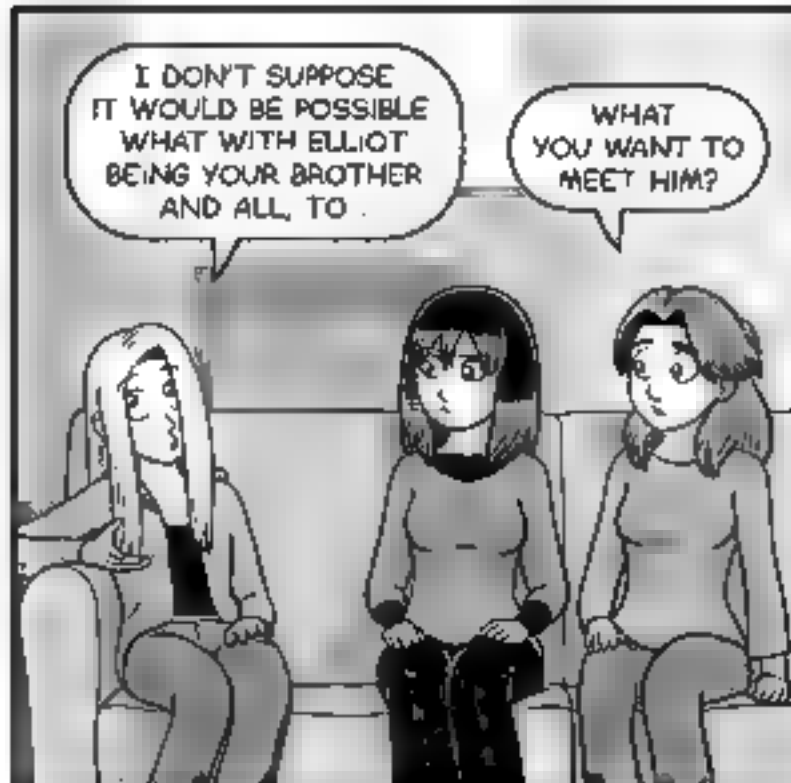
UM, YES. EVERY EPISODE?

SO YOU'VE SEEN--

THERE IS A SLIGHT RESEMBLANCE, YES.













DO YOU NOT WANT ME TO MEET HIM? THEM?

IT'S NOT THAT IT'S JUST... OH!



OKAY I'M REALLY REALLY NOT TRYING TO IMPLY ANYTHING BUT ELLIOT JUST BROKE UP WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND.

HE MIGHT GET THE WRONG IDEA IF I TRY TO INTRODUCE HIM TO ANY GIRLS JUST RIGHT NOW

AND YOU ARE A GIRL.

WRONG IDEAS ARE POSSIBLE

AND SUCH.



HE BROKE UP WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND?

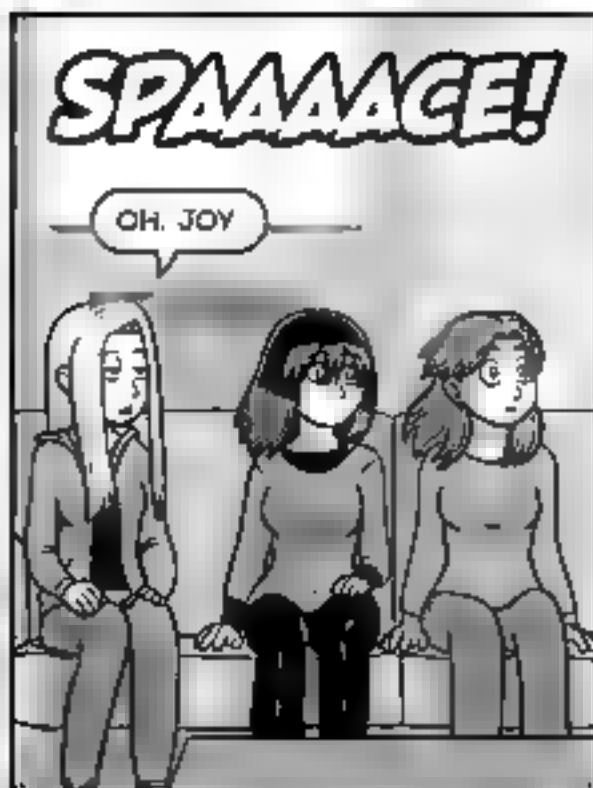
YEAH. IT WAS PRETTY HARD ON HIM.

I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT



I'M ACTUALLY SORRY TO HEAR THAT

HUH



**SPAAAAACE!**

OH. JOY



SORRY! I KNOW THAT WAS DELAYED BUT I HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT SOMEONE BEING ON A MOON, AND-

ARE THOSE THE TEEN GIRL DETECTIVES???



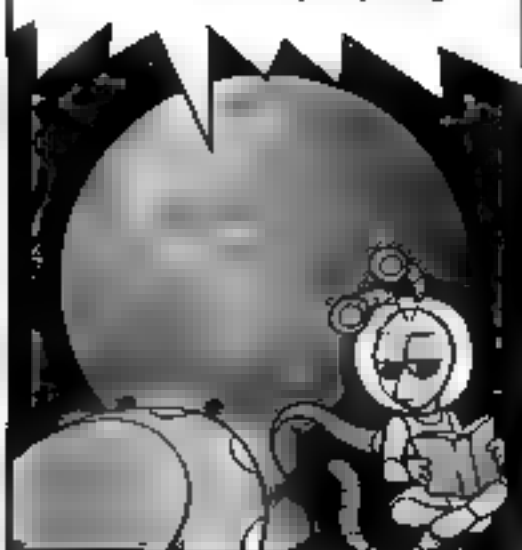
HM? OH SURE ARE

...

BRACE YOURSELVES FOR SQUEE IN 3, 2.



**SQUEE!**



UH. SORRY  
I'M A FAN.

DOUGH TA BE MORE CAREFUL, EL. MOST PEOPLE  
AREN'T ACCUSTOMED TO FANBOYISH SQUEES

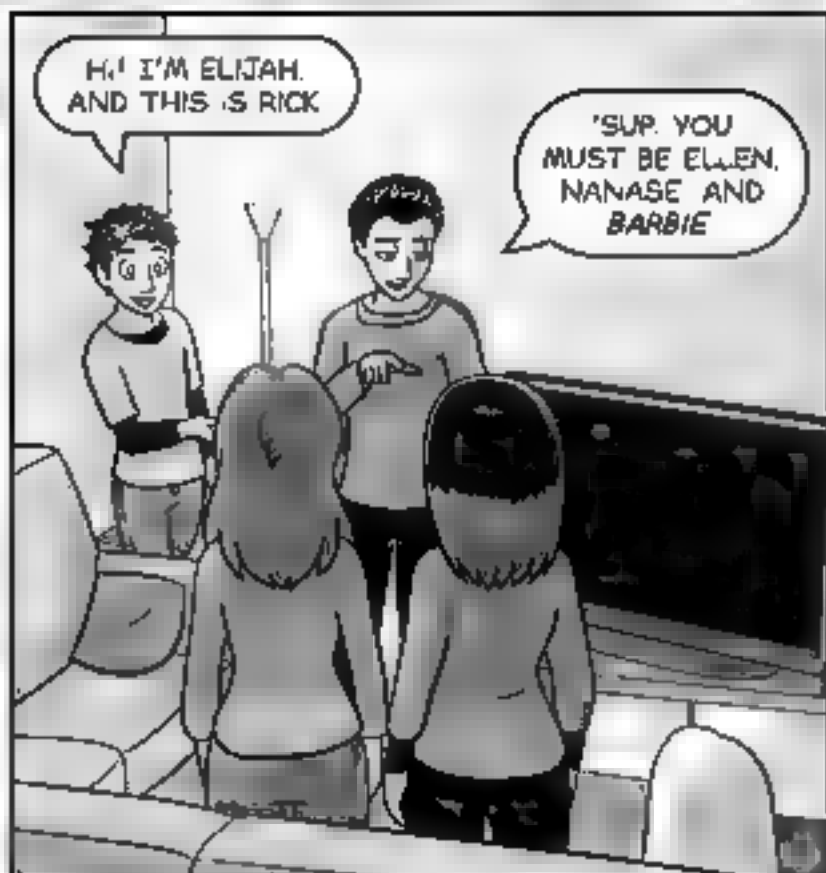
WELL, THEY AREN'T  
GOING TO GET USED  
TO IT WITHOUT  
EXPOSURE



FAIR  
'NOUGH.

HI I'M ELIJAH.  
AND THIS IS RICK

'SUP. YOU  
MUST BE ELLEN,  
NANASE AND  
BARBIE



THAT NICK  
NAME HASN'T  
GOTTEN ANY  
MORE CLEVER  
WITH AGE RICK



SHAME  
YOU USED TO  
LIKE IT



SHUT  
UP I WAS  
SIX



I DIDN'T SAY  
ANYTHING.



SO AT THIS POINT, I'M NOT SURE WHEN I'LL GET TO MEET ELLIOT AND I'LL PROBABLY GET STUCK MEETING LANKY, TOO.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, LUCY?

STOP OBSESSING OVER SOME DORK WHO DOES A REVIEW SHOW WITH YOUR DOPPELGANGER?

I AM NOT OBSESSED! AND SHE BARELY LOOKS LIKE ME

SERIOUSLY WHY DO YOU LIKE THIS GUY? HE SEEMS OKAY IN THOSE REVIEWS. BUT NOTHING SPECIAL.

PLUS THAT VIDEO STORE GIG HE HAD? THAT WAS JUST A SUMMER JOB. YOU THINK HE'S GOING TO BUY YOU NICE THINGS WITH HIS ALLOWANCE?

MAYBE I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT! MAYBE I WANT A REAL RELATIONSHIP FOR ONCE!

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

SCREW THE RULES. I'M DRINKING TONIGHT





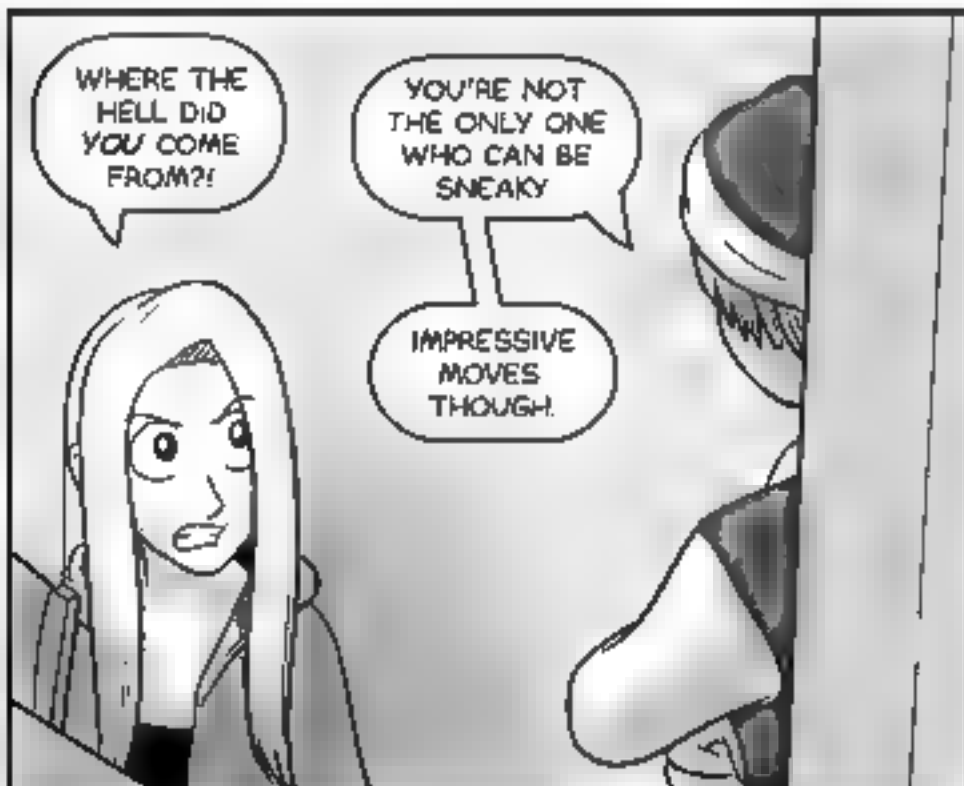
Five minutes and twelve guests finally arriving later
















THANKS FOR LETTING  
US HANG OUT HERE FOR  
A BIT CHARLOTTE.

NO PROBLEM. *MARIO*  
PARTY IS BEST PARTY




TAKE THAT BOO! HEY  
CHARLOTTE DID YOU REALLY  
THINK THE LOCKER ROOM GHOST  
MIGHT'VE BEEN REAL?




I DON'T THINK GHOSTS ARE REAL,  
BUT THE UNIVERSE IS A VAST REALM OF  
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES THAT DOESN'T  
CARE HOW WELL I UNDERSTAND IT

IF GHOSTS  
ARE REAL  
GHOSTS ARE  
REAL.




AND YOU  
THOUGHT WE'D  
BE A GOOD  
CHOICE EITHER  
WAY

I FIGURED YOU  
WOULD AT LEAST EITHER  
CATCH THE CULPRITS. OR  
CONFIRM A SUPER-  
NATURAL ELEMENT



SO WE'D EITHER SOLVE  
EVERYTHING OR CONFIRM  
SPOOKINESS. GOOD CALL.

HELL YEAH!  
SIX SPACES!



I ALSO FIGURED YOU TWO WERE A  
GOOD CHOICE BECAUSE I GRADUATED FROM  
MOPERVILLE SOUTH LAST YEAR AND I HAVE  
A DOLL WITH NANASE'S FACE ON IT

IT WAS ON THE FLOOR OUTSIDE OF MY CLASSROOM THE DAY EVERYONE FELL ASLEEP

I FOUND IT BY STEPPING ON IT SO I'M SORRY IF IT WORKS LIKE A VODOO DOLL.



HOW COULD SHE WAIT

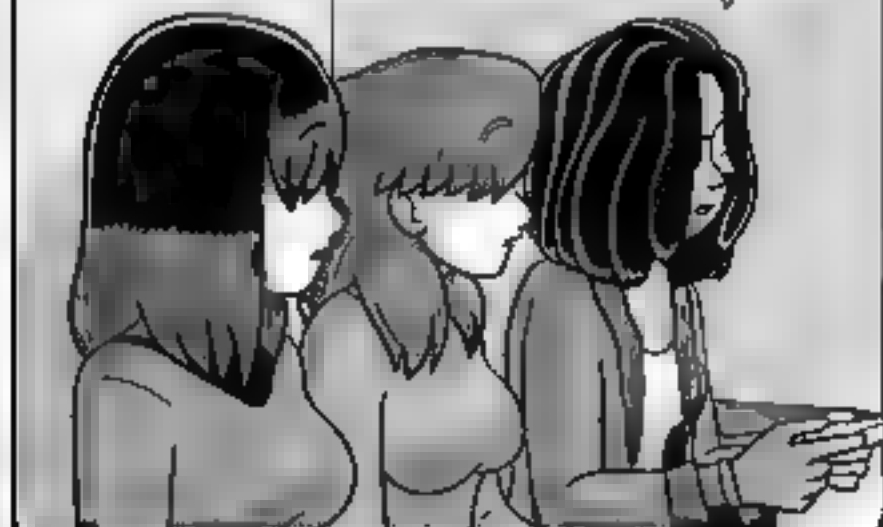
I MADE TWO FAIRY DOLLS WHILE TRYING TO WARN ELLEN! WE NEVER GOT THE SECOND ONE BACK!



THEY SAID IT WAS A GAS LEAK BUT I DID A LOT OF DIGGING. SEVERAL SPOOKY FOLKS SAY IT WAS A SPELL CAST BY THE GUY WHO SNUCK INTO THE SCHOOL, AND THAT HE GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH SOMEONE WHO WAS USING A "GUARDIAN FORM"



BASED ON WHAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO FIND ON GUARDIAN FORMS, NANASE'S SUDDEN HAIR COLOR CHANGE, THE DOLL, AND PEOPLE SAYING YOU TWO WERE MISSING WHEN EVERYONE WOKE UP



...I'M GUESSING NANASE WAS THE GUARDIAN AND THE ATTACKER WAS AFTER ELLEN.



UHHHH...



YOU TWO AREN'T GOING TO WIN ANY MINI GAMES IF YOU DON'T LOOK AT THE SCREEN.



FOR THE *HYPOTHETICAL* SAKE  
OF A CAUTIOUS ARGUMENT  
LET'S SAY YOU'RE *MAYBE* ON  
TO SOMETHING DO YOU WANT  
SOMETHING FROM US?



NO. WELL,  
YES, BUT NOTHING  
NEFARIOUS.

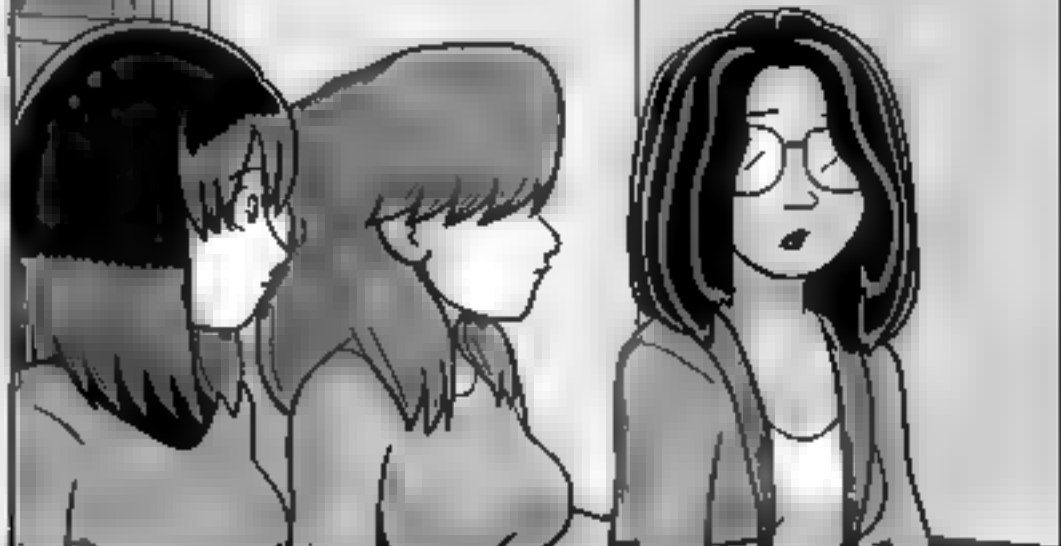
IT'S BECOME AWESOMELY  
UNDENIABLE IN THE PAST YEAR  
THAT THERE ARE GENUINELY SPOOKY  
THINGS GOING ON, AND I DO MY  
BEST TO KEEP TABS ON IT ALL.



THING IS, ONCE I DO FIND  
SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS.  
THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO  
ABOUT IT BEYOND SHARING  
INFORMATION ON MY SPOOKY  
FORUMS AND SOUNDING LIKE  
A SPOOKY NUTJOB.



WHAT I WANT IS TO KNOW WHETHER YOU  
TWO ARE THE RIGHT PEOPLE TO CALL IF I THINK  
SOMETHING TRULY SPOOKY IS GOING ON.



YEAH. I  
GUESS WE  
ARE

WE CAN'T *GUARANTEE* ANYTHING  
BUT IT'S *POSSIBLE* THAT WE'D BE A  
*SUPER GOOD CHOICE* WHO CAN EITHER  
HELP OR CONTACT OTHERS WHO CAN.









HEY CHARLOTTE? YOU SAID  
SOMETHING EARLIER ABOUT  
"GUARDIAN FORMS"?

YOU DON'T KNOW  
ABOUT THEM?

NOT REALLY NO

WELL... THIS GUY CALLED "TENGU" ON  
MY FORUMS WROTE THAT MAGIC CAN  
TRANSFORM SOMEONE INTO A GUARDIAN  
FORM IF THEY HAVE A RARE COMBINATION  
OF MAGIC TALENTS AND SELFLESSNESS.

HE CLAIMED THAT  
THE FORMS VARY,  
BUT SHARE CERTAIN  
CHARACTERISTICS

THE REQUIREMENTS TO  
OBTAIN THE NECESSARY  
SPELL HAS LED SOME TO  
BELIEVE THEM TO BE  
DIVINE IN NATURE

DIVINE?  
REALLY?

AS WITH GHOSTS.  
I CAN'T SAY WITH  
CERTAINTY AS FAR AS I  
CAN TELL, IT'S MORE  
ASSUMPTION THAN  
TESTED CONCLUSION.

HOW WOULD YOU  
TEST FOR THAT?

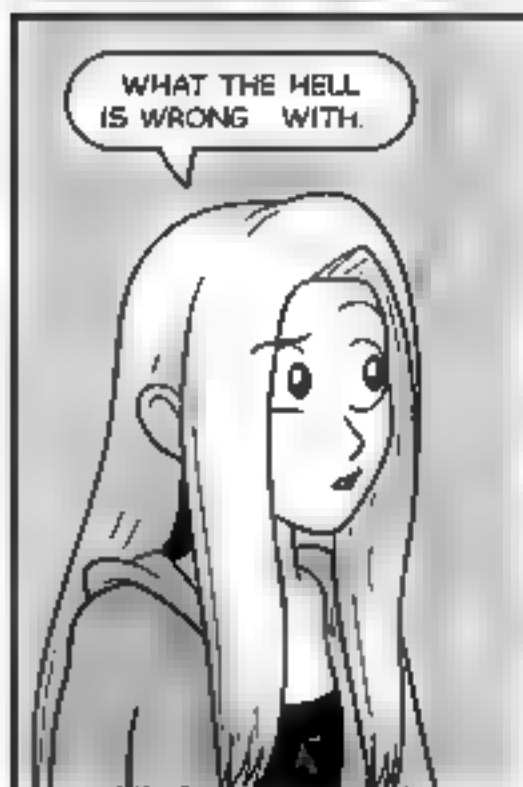
I SUSPECT THAT IS WHY IN SPITE  
OF ALL THE SECRECY I'VE BEEN  
ABLE TO FIND WORD OF SOMEONE  
HAVING USED A GUARDIAN FORM  
THAT DAY FROM SEVERAL SOURCES.

THAT'S  
INTERESTING.

JM. THANK  
YOU. YES.

YOUR HAIR LOOKS COOL. BY  
THE WAY I ASSUME YOU DYED  
IT BACK TO RED AT ONE POINT  
THEN LET IT GROW OUT?

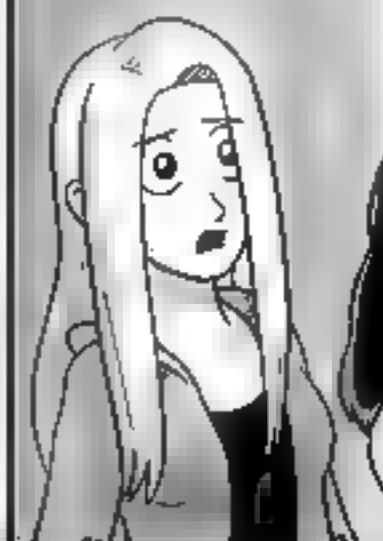
NEAT



I KNOW I HAVEN'T  
BEEN OUT HERE MUCH,  
BUT I COULD'VE  
SWORN THAT ..



I MEAN...  
WEREN'T THERE  
BOYS AT THIS  
PARTY BE--



IS THAT RICK?!

AND ELIJAH

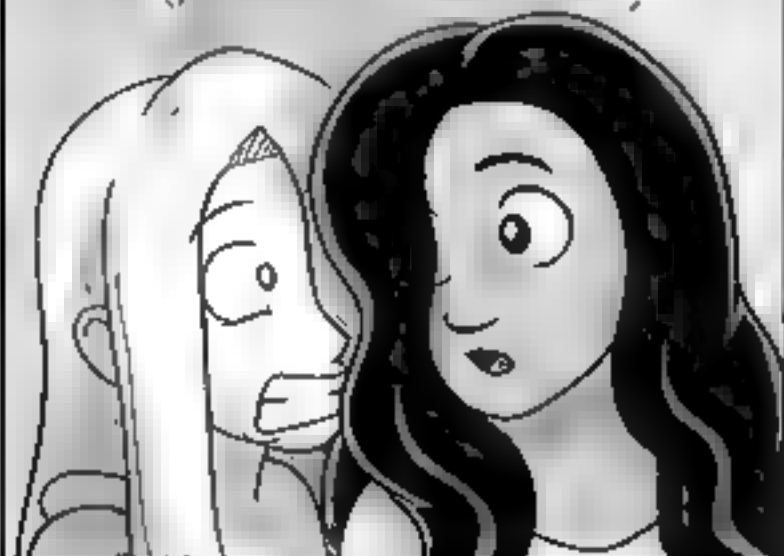
WHATEVER. WHY  
IS HE. THEY. WITH  
THE BOOBS.

IS SOMETHING  
WRONG?



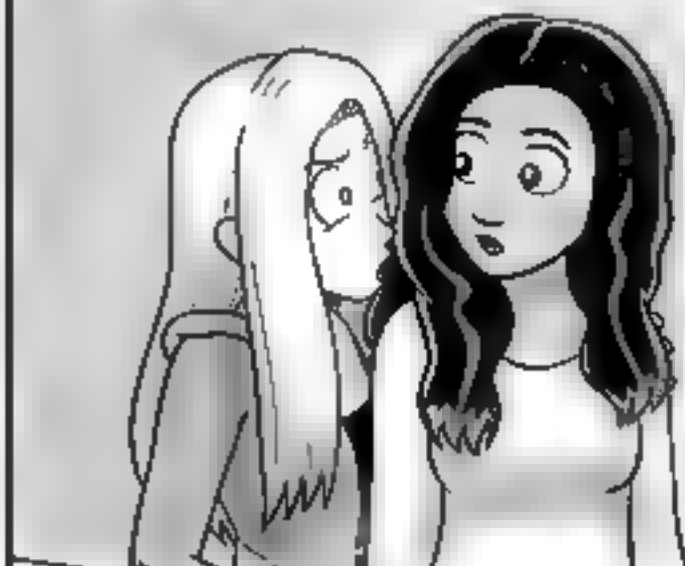
IS SOMETHING  
WRONG?! THEY'RE  
WOMEN!

YES. THEY'VE  
ALWAYS BEEN  
WOMEN



JM NOOOO? NO.  
THEY HAVEN'T?!

OH. WHEN DID  
THEY CHANGE?



THEY WERE BOYS  
EARLIER TONIGHT! THEY'VE  
ALWAYS BEEN BOYS! DON'T  
YOU REMEMBER?!

NO BUT I  
BELIEVE YOU  
MY LORD.





DID IT JUST GET  
REALLY QUIET  
DOWN THERE? I  
DON'T HEAR MUSIC  
ANY--WAIT

IS THAT  
DIANE  
YELLING?

THUMP  
THUMP  
THUMP

THWUMP

NANASE  
ELLEN, AND  
CHARLOTTE!  
CLUCK LIKE  
CHICKENS!

WHAT?

NO.

ARE YOU  
DRUNK?

OH THANK  
GOD I'M NOT  
THE ONLY  
ONE LEFT!

"LEFT"?

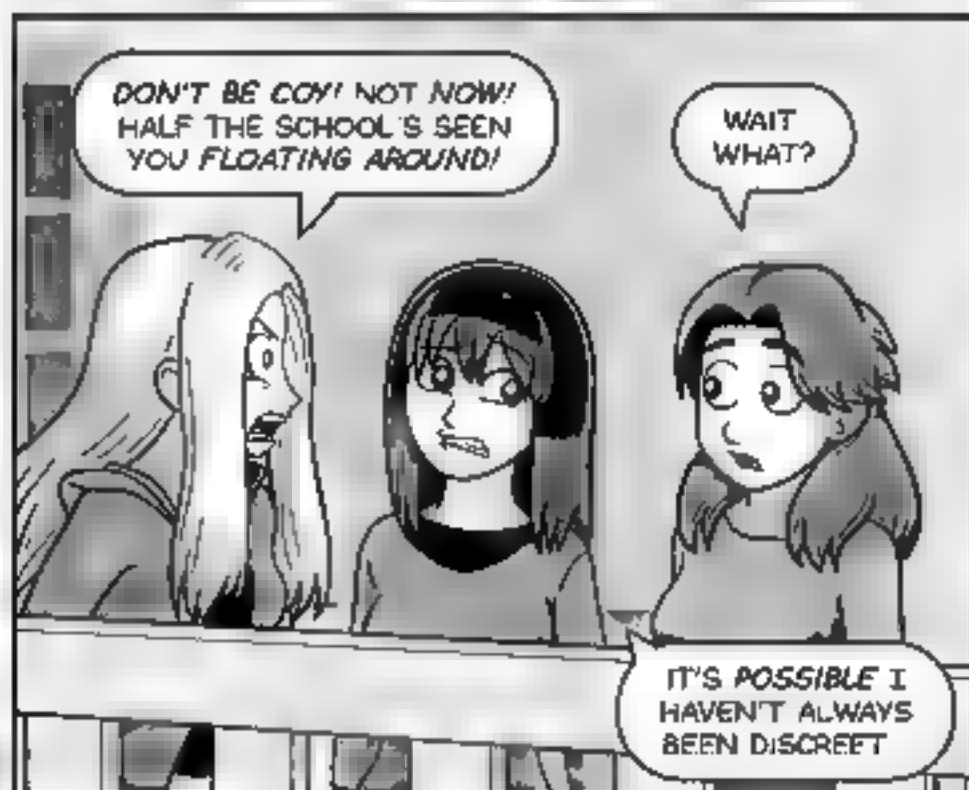
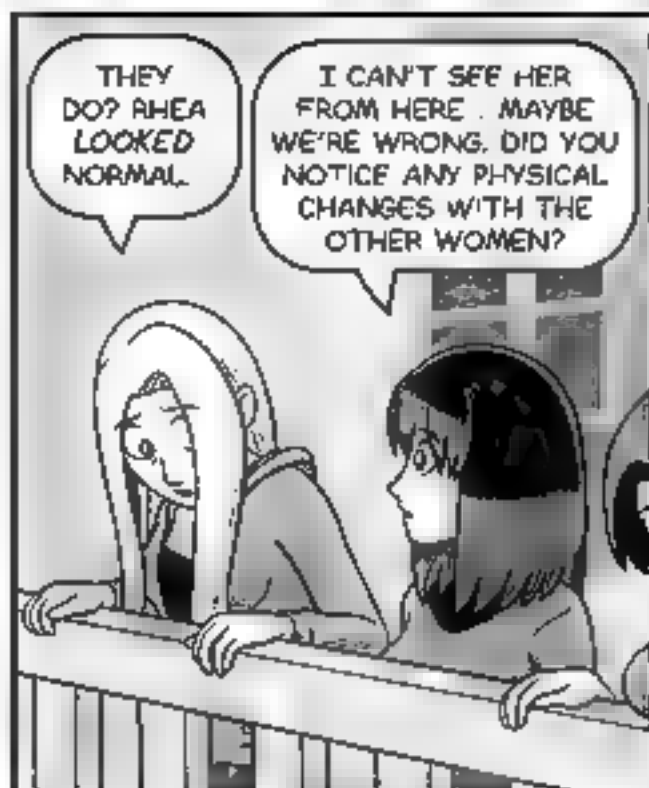
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?

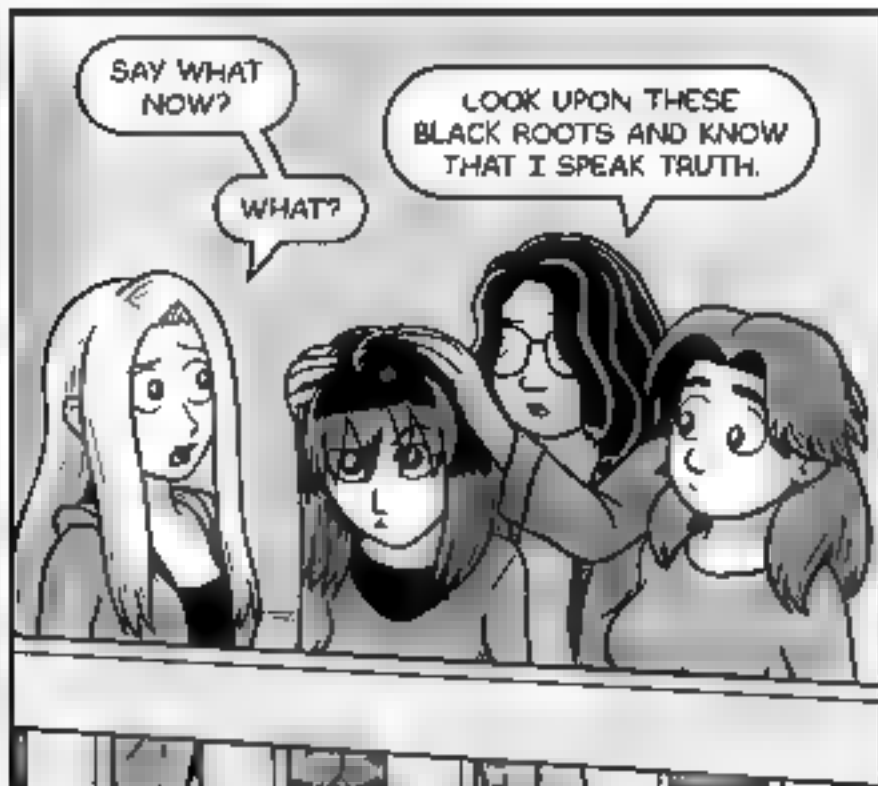
ALL THE BOYS ARE NOW GIRLS  
AND THEY BELIEVE AND DO  
WHATEVER I TELL THEM AND  
THEY'RE CALLING ME THEIR LORD  
BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S  
JUST WITH ME OR ANYONE SO I  
TOLD THEM TO TURN OFF THE  
MUSIC AND STOP TALKING AND  
I'M FREAKING OUT AND

BREATHING.  
NEED TO  
BREATHE

I THINK  
PROHIBITION  
HAS FAILED









THE BUSYBODY! HE SAID  
THERE WAS A WEIRD AFTER-  
TASTE TO THE PUNCH!

SOUNDS LIKE  
CHARLOTTE'S GOT  
IT RIGHT. LET'S GO  
FIND THIS GUY'S  
ASS AND KICK IT

WAIT THAT. DOESN'T  
ADD UP. RHEA'S MADE THIS  
PUNCH BEFORE SHE WOULD  
HAVE DONE SOMETHING IF  
IT TASTED STRANGE.

YOU'RE RIGHT. THERE'S  
NO WAY RHEA WOULD TAKE  
A CHANCE ON THE PUNCH  
BEING SPIKED BY SOMEONE  
ELSE. I MEAN.

AND COME TO  
THINK OF IT I  
DON'T THINK THE  
BUSYBODY'S  
STILL HERE

WOULD YOU  
STILL RECOGNIZE  
HIM IF HE WAS?

I DON'T KNOW BUT HE WAS WEARING A  
SANTA HAT AND NOBODY DOWN THERE IS.  
AND IT WAS LIKE HE APPEARED OUT OF  
NOWHERE! MAYBE HE ACTUALLY DID!

A SANTA HAT?

HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT  
LOOKING OUT FOR ME BECAUSE HE  
OWED RHEA A FAVOR, BUT MAYBE

DID HE  
SPECIFICALLY  
SAY "RHEA"?

YES! WELL, HE SAID  
"SISTER" BUT WHO ELSE  
COULD THAT MEAN?

..NANASE?

I DON'T THINK  
THE BUSYBODY IS  
OUR BAD GUY

HOW DO  
YOU KNOW?

IF I'M RIGHT THAT "BUSYBODY"  
MIGHT BE THE REINCARNATION OF  
THAT SANTA CLAUS-LIKE IMMORTAL  
WHO PLEDGED A DEBT TO SUSAN.

JARRED. OR  
JERRY OR  
SOMETHING.

BUT FOR THAT TO BE TRUE..

HE STOPPED YOU FROM DRINKING  
THE PUNCH. THIS WHOLE THING  
COULD HAVE HAPPENED WITH YOU  
ENTHRALLED AND THE THREE OF  
US BEING TOTALLY CLUELESS.

AND THAT'S  
THE ONLY  
REASON YOU  
THINK THAT

IT'S THE ONLY REASON  
I'M CERTAIN OF BEYOND A  
REASONABLE DOUBT, SURE.  
AND IT'S A GOOD REASON.

ENOUGH DEDUCING. WE  
NEED TO FIND THIS GUY  
AND CONTACT TEDD'S DAD  
AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

ARE YOU SUGGESTING  
WE JUST WANDER OUT  
INTO THE SNOW AND  
SEARCH FOR A PHONE  
SIGNAL AND A WIZARD?

IT'S EITHER THAT OR WE WAIT TO  
SEE WHAT HAPPENS IF AND WHEN  
SAID WIZARD HAS FULL CONTROL  
OVER EVERYONE BETWEEN JS AND  
THE ONLY WAY OUT

AS MUCH AS I WANT TO KICK THIS GUY'S ASS, MR. VERRES IS OUR BEST BET FOR HELPING EVERYONE

I'LL ADD HIS NUMBER TO YOUR PHONES. MAGIC OR TECHNOLOGY THERE'S GOT TO BE A LIMIT TO HIS SIGNAL JAMMING

YOU REALLY THINK THIS "MR. VERRES" CAN FIX THIS?

GOT IT

EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY I'D SAY MORE BUT.

WHAT DO WE DO IF WE DO RUN INTO THIS GUY? I'M A SNEAKER. NOT A FIGHTER.

NANASE AND I KEEP HIM BUSY WHILE YOU AND CHARLOTTE CONCENTRATE ON CONTACTING VERRES.

BUT HE'S A WIZARD AND NANASE'S MAGIC IS ON THE FRITZ!

TECHNICALLY, WE DON'T KNOW THAT HE'S A "WIZARD" AND IF I NEED MAGIC TO HANDLE WHOEVER'S BEHIND THIS, I'LL PROBABLY GET IT BACK ANYWAY. MAGIC. FLAIR FOR DRAMATIC, ETCETERA

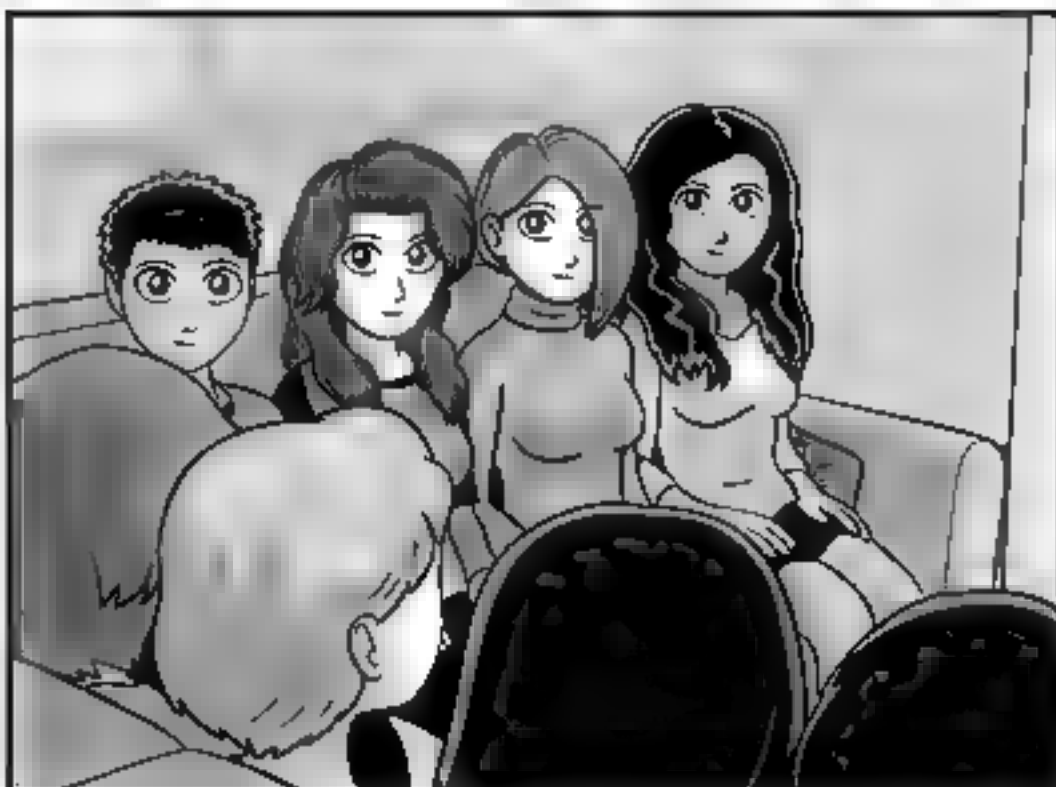
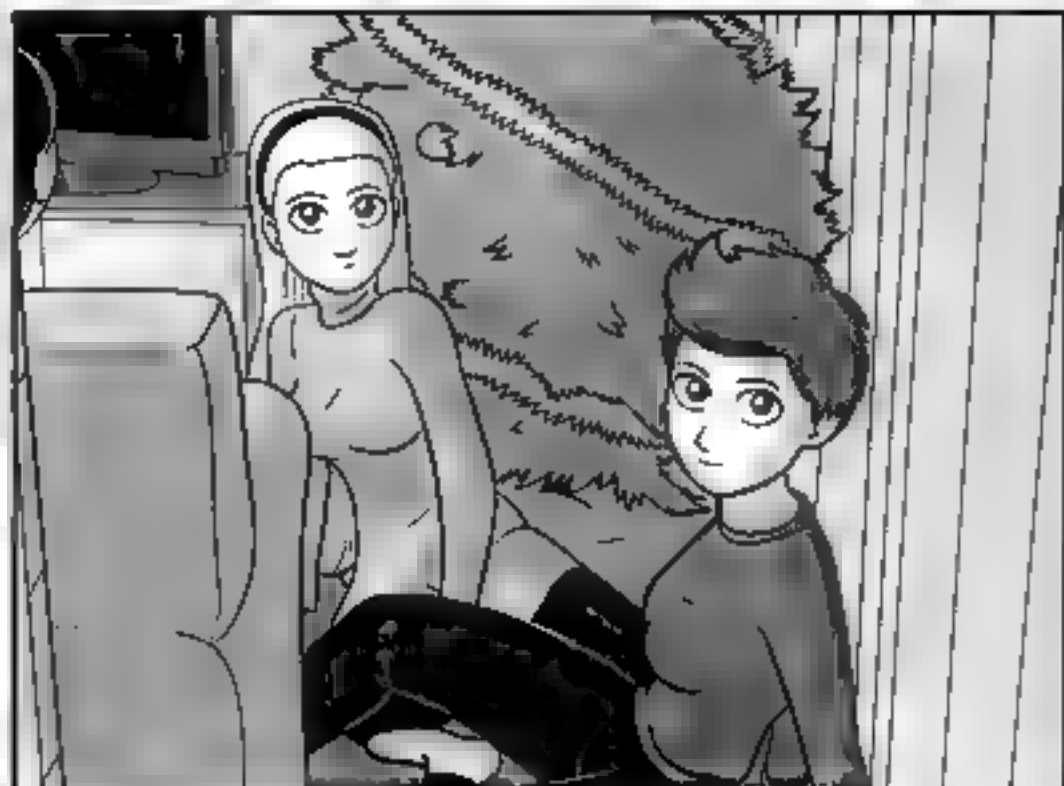
FRANKLY I'M HOPING WE GET TO ONE OF OUR CARS FIRST THEN WE CAN QUICKLY GET TO EITHER A SIGNAL OR AN AVAILABLE LANDLINE

OUR BIG HOPE IS TO DRIVE IN THIS WEATHER?

UM... H.M. WELL. DRIVING SLOW IS STILL FASTER THAN WALKING.

MAYBE

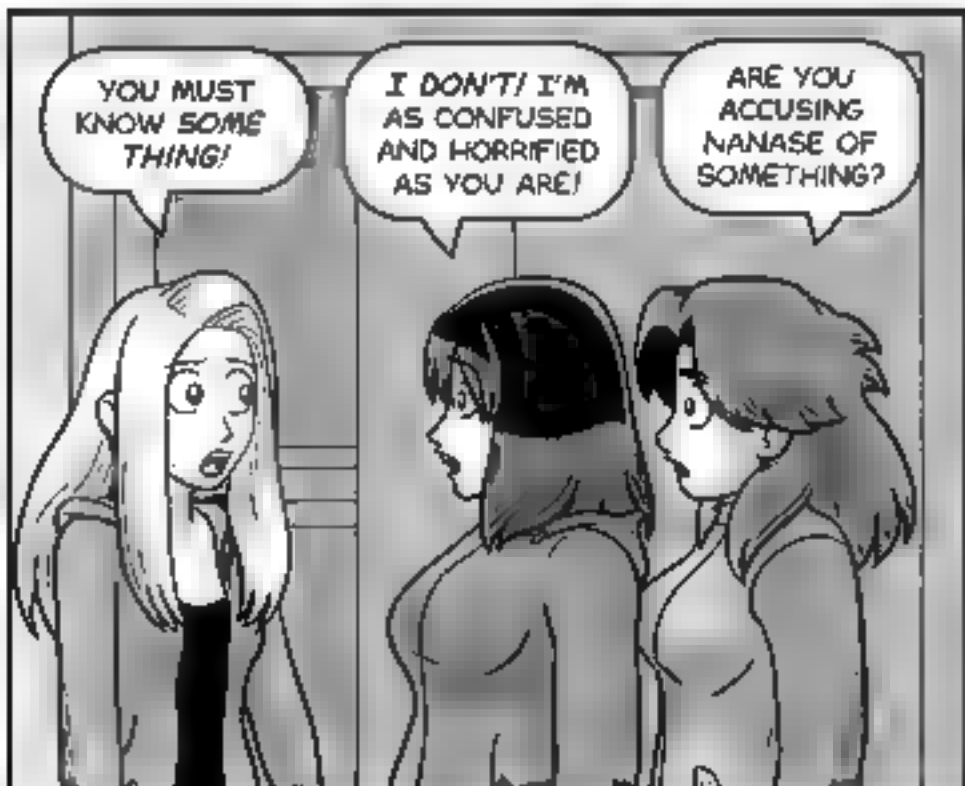






BUT WHY DO THEY ALL LOOK LIKE YOU?

I DON'T KNOW!



YOU MUST KNOW *SOME* THING!

I DON'T! I'M AS CONFUSED AND HORRIFIED AS YOU ARE!

ARE YOU ACCUSING NANASE OF SOMETHING?



WHAT? NO, YOU IDIOT! NANASE'S THE COOLEST PERSON I'VE EVER MET! IF SHE WASN'T I WOULD'VE SUSPECTED MS. MAGIC USER HERE FROM THE START!



WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT SOMEONE MUST HAVE A GRUDGE, OR INFATUATION, OR SOMETHING WITH YOU! YOU MUST HAVE A HISTORY WITH WHOEVER'S DOING THIS!



I DO HAVE A LOT OF EX-BOYFRIENDS... BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE ANY OF THEM DOING ANYTHING LIKE THIS. OR, MORE PRECISELY BEING ABLE TO.

ALSO WORTH NOTING: CREEPY STALKERS? NOT ALWAYS BIG ON INTRODUCING THEMSELVES.



THIS CHANGES NOTHING OF OUR OBJECTIVES BEYOND HOW OUTRAGED WE SHALL BE WHILE COMPLETING THEM.

I WAS ALREADY AT ELEVEN, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT









YOU ACTUALLY  
LOOK LIKE THAT?!



CHARLOTTE!  
YOU KNOW  
THIS GUY?!

FROM MY MESSAGE  
BOARDS! THAT'S TENGU! I  
DIDN'T THINK HIS PROFILE  
IMAGE WAS REAL!



I SUPPOSE THIS  
EXPLAINS THAT ONE  
POST HE MADE



I just found out that Ellen and  
Nanase are going to be at my  
roommates' New Year's Eve  
Party. Neat



**MWUH-HAHAAH!!! >:D**



Okay then.



WAIT.. **DIANE'S  
GONE!** SHE MUST  
HAVE BOLTED WHEN  
TENGU LANDED!

IF WE CAN GIVE  
HER TIME TO  
FIND A SIGNAL



THAT IS CORRECT,  
CHARLOTTE. I SUPPOSE  
YOU WEREN'T LYING  
ABOUT NOT DRINKING.

BUT **TENGU** IS BUT  
A SCREEN NAME! MY  
TRUE NAME IS--



AREN'T TENGUS  
SUPPOSED TO  
HAVE BIRD-LIKE  
FEATURES?

UM, YES, BUT  
AS I WAS--

YOU'RE MORE LIKE  
A WEIRD BAT

YES, BUT--



THEY'RE ALSO SUPPOSED  
TO HAVE HUGE NOSES. I  
REFRAINED FROM NIT-  
PICKING ON THE FORUMS.  
BUT I SEE NO REASON  
NOT TO NOW

SPEAKING OF  
WHICH YOU ARE  
SO BANNED



AS THOUGH I CARE ABOUT  
YOUR FORLIMS! YOUR  
SELECTION OF SMILIES WAS  
WOEFULLY INADEQUATE, AND  
NEW POST NOTIFICATIONS  
WERE FREQUENTLY DELAYED!



BUT AS I WAS SAYING,  
MY NAME IS NOT TENGU!  
I AM INFAMOUSLY  
KNOWN THROUGHOUT  
EUROPE AS--



IT DOESN'T  
MATTER WHAT YOUR  
NAME IS!



KEEP HIM  
TALKING.

BUT WE WOULD LIKE  
TO KNOW WHAT THE HELL  
IS GOING ON! IN DETAIL!  
LOTS OF DETAIL.



...VERY WELL.  
IT'S QUITE *SIMPLE*,  
REALLY. YOUR AUNT  
MAINED ME AND  
ROBBED ME OF  
MY FLOCK.

I AM HERE  
TO FORM A  
NEW ONE.



MY AUNT  
SHE MAINED  
YOU, AND...  
STOLE BIRDS  
FROM YOU?

I SUSPECT HE'S  
REFERRING TO A  
MIND CONTROLLED  
CONGREGATION

YOU  
MEAN LIKE  
A CULT?



A "CULT"? HONESTLY,  
SUCH INTOLERANCE OF OTHER  
PEOPLE'S BELIEFS.

YOU  
ENSLAVE  
MINDS!

AND I BELIEVE THAT'S OKAY.



I WAS PUT ON THIS EARTH TO BE A RULER OF *MINDLESS, OBEDIENT SHEEP*. I AM A *SHEPHERD*. NEVER BEFORE HAS THIS BEEN MORE...



ARE YOU *GROWLING?*

RRRRRR—  
NO PLEASE  
CONTINUE.



IT TOOK *MONTHS* TO FORM MY FIRST FLOCK SLOWLY BENDING MINDS TO MY WILL, ONE-BY-ONE, GRADUALLY ELIMINATING ALL SENSE OF PERSONAL IDENTITY BY MAKING THEM IDENTICAL...



ONLY FOR THAT *DEVIL NORIKO* TO SWOOP IN AND LINDO ALL MY HARD WORK!

I BARELY ESCAPED WITH MY LIFE. IN FACT, MOST BELIEVE ME TO BE *DEAD*.



SO I FLED TO THE STATES. I WANDERED, SEARCHING FOR THE RIGHT PLACE TO BEGIN MY WORK ANEW, AND AFTER SOME TIME, I REALIZED SOMETHING.



I WAS BEING *GUIDED*. AN UNSEEN FORCE LED ME TO THIS CITY.

AS I GOT CLOSER, I COULD FEEL MY POWER GROW AND *GROW AND GROW...*!



OH MY GOD. HE WAS DRAWN TO THE EXCESS MAGIC ENERGY!



AND WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT?  
MY GUIDE LED ME RIGHT TO  
NORIKO'S FAMILY, AND I NOW  
HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO  
CREATE A NEW FLOCK IN A  
SINGLE NIGHT!



SO YOU ENCHANTED THE  
ALCOHOL AND MADE THEM  
ALL LOOK LIKE ME AS PART  
OF YOUR REVENGE



I COULD HAVE MADE THEM  
ALL LOOK LIKE HER FIRST-  
BORN SON BUT THAT  
THOUGHT DIDN'T REALLY...  
APPEAL... TO ME.



AND BESIDES, YOU'VE MADE  
IT SO EASY TO FIND REFERENCE  
IMAGES OF YOU.



YOU'RE QUITE...  
PHOTOGENIC.

THE ALCOHOL, HOWEVER, WAS  
BUT A CONDUIT FOR MY POWER.  
THE ENCHANTMENTS WON'T LAST  
WITHOUT ME POWERING THEM.



KILL ME,  
AND YOU SAVE  
YOUR LITTLE  
FRIENDS.

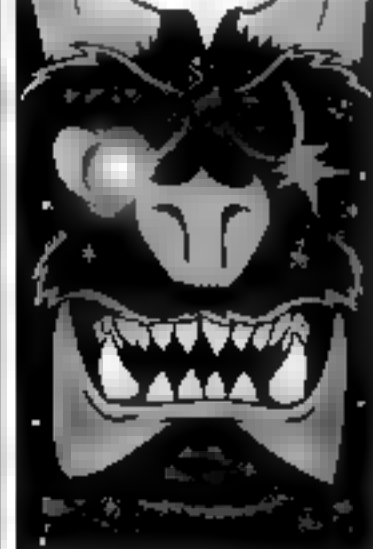
IS THAT A  
CHALLENGE?



IT IS A SIMPLE STATEMENT  
OF FACT. IT SHOULD BE  
APPARENT THAT I AM HAPPY  
TO SIMPLY HAVE A PLEASANT  
CONVERSATION. I HAVE  
NOT ATTACKED YOU...



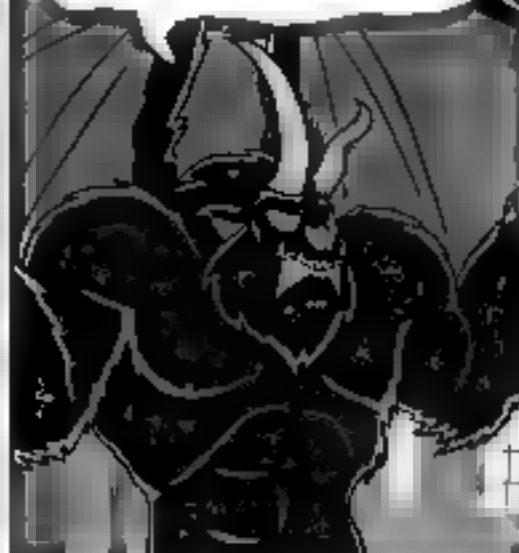
AND I AM  
NOT GOING  
TO ATTACK  
YOU.



WAS THAT MENACING?  
AM I SUPPOSED TO  
FEEL MENACED?



OF COURSE NOT! I'M  
SIMPLY TALKING. I'M NOT  
GOING TO LAY A FINGER  
ON ANY OF YOU THREE.



UNLESS, OF  
COURSE, ONE OF  
YOU INITIATES THE  
*OFFENSIVE*.



YOU WERE  
CHARLOTTE'S  
SOURCE ON  
GUARDIAN  
FORMS.

YOU DON'T  
WANT ME  
ON THE  
DEFENSIVE!  
YOU WANT  
US TO  
ATTACK  
FIRST!



ATTACK FIRST,  
DON'T ATTACK,  
WHICHEVER.

I HAVE BETTER  
THINGS TO DO ON NEW  
YEAR'S EVE THAN FIGHT  
A *GUARDIAN*.



SPEAKING OF WHICH,  
IT'S BEEN FUN, BUT I *REALLY*  
MUST BE GOING.

YOU... WAIT!



GO  
AHEAD.

**MAKE ME  
STAY.**













THAT FELT LIKE YOU WERE TRYING TO ENCHANT ME.

AWFULLY OVERBLOWN, DON'T YOU THINK?

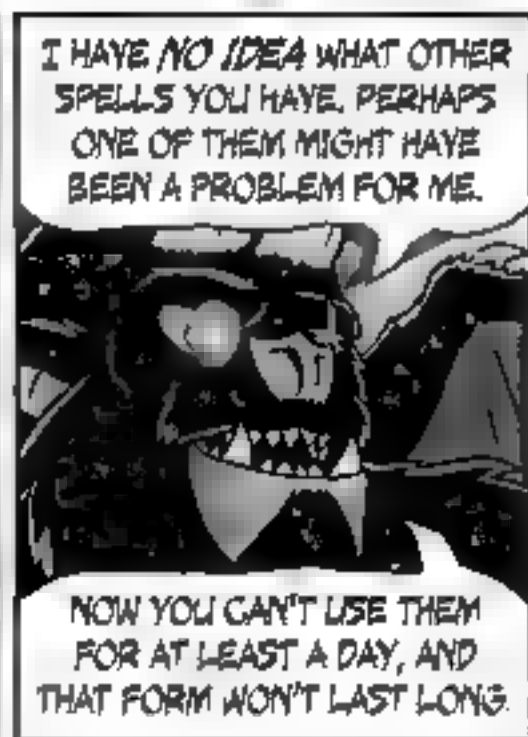


THAT LOOKED COOL, AT LEAST



IT'S SO EASY TO MANIPULATE SOMEONE WHO *THINKS* THEY'RE SMARTER THAN YOU.

WHAT?



I HAVE *NO IDEA* WHAT OTHER SPELLS YOU HAVE. PERHAPS ONE OF THEM MIGHT HAVE BEEN A PROBLEM FOR ME.

NOW YOU CAN'T USE THEM FOR AT LEAST A DAY, AND THAT FORM WON'T LAST LONG.



GUARDIAN FORMS COME WITH SPECIAL COMBAT INSTINCTS, SO TELL ME...



DO I LOOK LIKE I NEED TO WORRY ABOUT *HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT*?!



ELLEN: CHARLOTTE  
YOU SHOULD GO

WHAT?!



I MEAN, YEAH, CHARLOTTE,  
YOU SHOULD TOTALLY GET TO  
SOMEWHERE SAFE NOW  
BUT **WHAT?!**



PLEASE, TAKE YOUR  
TIME. I HAVE **NO**  
**OBJECTIONS** TO YOU  
RUNNING OUT THE  
CLOCK ON YOUR OWN  
TRUMP CARD.



IT'S BETTER  
IF I FACE HIM  
ALONE

DON'T WORRY HE'S  
RIGHT ABOUT THIS  
FORM GIVING ME EXTRA  
INSTINCTS. THEY SAY  
I CAN TAKE HIM.



SHE'S LYING!



NO.  
WE DO THIS  
TOGETHER.



WHAT ARE YOU

**COPY.**

GOD? IT'S ME. EL-- WAIT, YOU'RE GOD.  
YOU KNOW WHO THE HELL THIS IS

SORRY ABOUT  
THINKING "HELL"

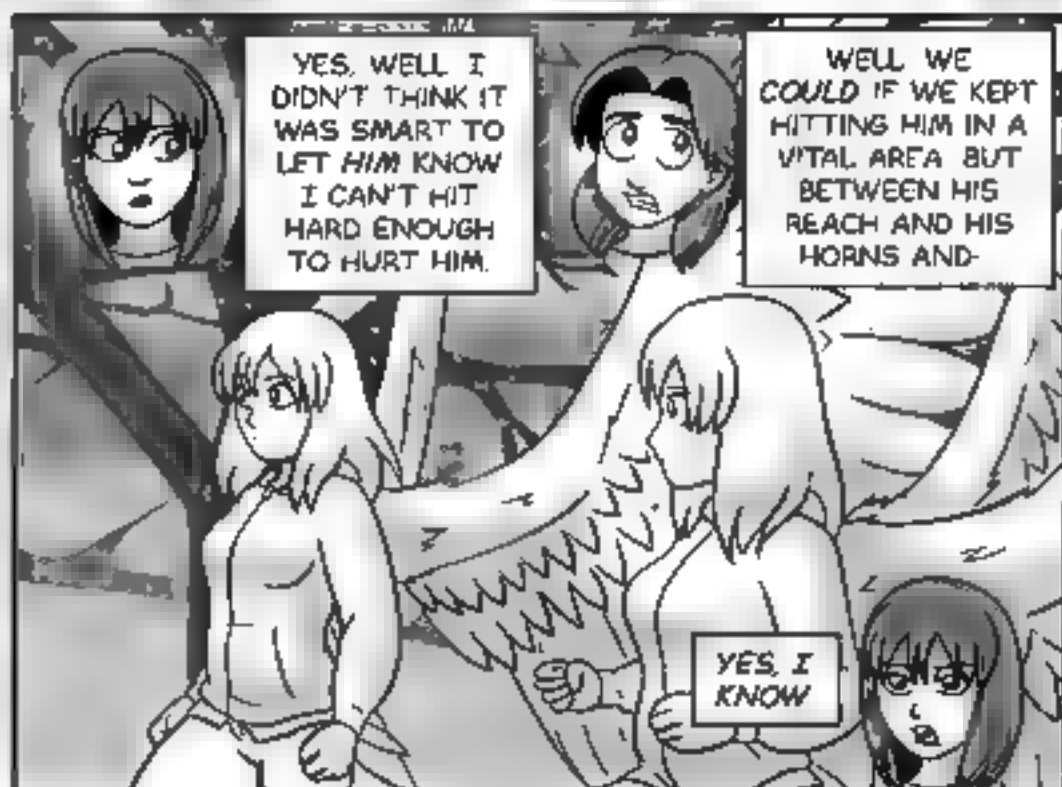
I DON'T KNOW IF GUARDIAN FORMS  
REALLY ARE DIVINE OR IF YOU CARE WHO  
USES THEM, OR IF YOU'RE EVEN THERE

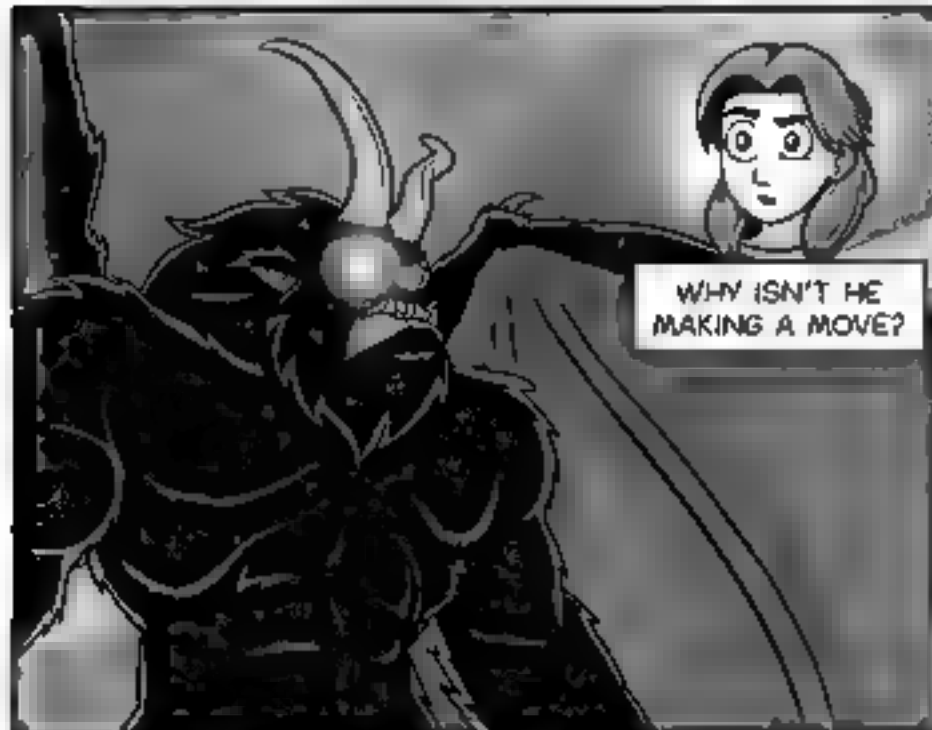
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I'M  
FIGHTING FOR, BECAUSE YOU'RE GOD  
AND YOU'RE COOL LIKE THAT

SO PLEASE. IF  
I DO NEED YOUR  
APPROVAL TO  
USE A GUARDIAN  
FORM. PLEASE..

THROW ME A  
BONE. HERE.

**VWSH**





WHY ISN'T HE  
MAKING A MOVE?



HE'S CONFUSED BUT  
MOSTLY, HE THINKS  
THESE FORMS WON'T  
LAST LONG.

MY STRATEGY WAS ASSUMING THAT  
DIANE HAD FOUND A SIGNAL BY NOW  
AND THAT HELP WOULD ARRIVE BEFORE  
NOT-TENGU LOST HIS PATIENCE



THAT'S A BIG  
GAMBLE. HE  
"THINKS" THESE  
FORMS WON'T  
LAST LONG?

THANKS TO  
ALL THE EXTRA  
AMBIENT MAGIC  
ENERGY WE  
SHOULD BE ABLE  
TO KEEP THEM  
FOR A WHILE.



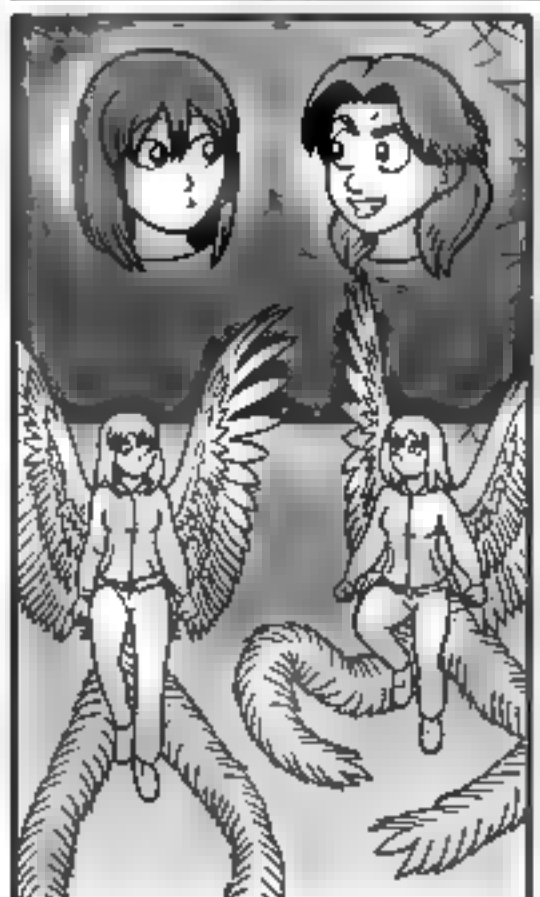
ISN'T THAT THE  
SAME ENERGY  
HE'S BEEN USING  
TO TRANSFORM  
EVERYONE AT  
THE PARTY?

I DON'T THINK HE  
KNOWS THAT HE  
SEEMS TO THINK  
HE'S BEEN BLESSED  
WITH POWER OR  
SOMETHING.



SO WAIT  
THERE'S WAY  
MORE ENERGY  
AROUND HERE  
THAN THERE  
SHOULD BE

BUT IT'S NOT  
INFINITE, RIGHT?



I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE  
WAITING FOR, BUT  
I ASSURE YOU--

**WHOOSH**

HEY!











WHOOSH WHOOSH WHOOSH





YOU THINK  
THERE IS  
HOPE?!

I HAVE  
POWER! I AM  
POWER!



I CAN  
MAKE MYSELF  
FASTER!

**STRONGER!**



YOU WILL DIE!  
ALL OF NORIKO'S  
FAMILY WILL DIE!

HER EX-HUSBAND,  
HER SISTER, HER  
CHILDREN...

**NONE SHALL BE SPARED!**



CAN YOU  
UNDERSTAND  
WHAT HE'S  
SAYING?

ALL I CAN  
HEAR RIGHT  
NOW IS  
"WHOOSH"

ME TOO.















OH THANK  
GOODNESS.



DID YOU JUST  
THREATEN TO KILL  
THIS GUY?

NO! SORT OF  
I WAS BEING  
INTIMIDATING!

IS THAT  
ELLEN AND  
NANASE?



IT'S NANASE...  
AND NANASE?

I'M NANASE  
SHE'S ELLEN

COPY SPELL POWER  
TEAM UP WHAT ARE YOU  
TWO DOING HERE?



TEDD'S DAD WAS  
IN HIS KITCHEN WHEN  
DIANE CALLED.

AND HE  
SENT YOU  
TWO?



MORE LIKE GRACE  
OVERHEARD WHAT WAS  
HAPPENING AND HE  
COULDN'T STOP JS.

HE SHOULD BE ON HIS  
WAY WITH BACKUP BUT HE'S  
DRIVING IN THIS SNOW, SO...



YEAH SPEAKING OF  
SNOW HOW ARE YOU  
NOT FREEZING?

MY INSTINCTS TELL ME HE'S NOT GETTING UP ANY TIME SOON BUT STAY ON GUARD WE USED UP THE AMBIENT ENERGY AROUND HERE. SO WE'RE GOING TO LOSE THESE FORMS SOON



THAT ENERGY TEDDY'S BEEN WORRYING ABOUT? YOU USED ALL OF IT?!



NOT ALL OF IT JUST THE ENERGY AROUND THIS APARTMENT COMPLEX

THERE'S PROBABLY SOME LEFT BUT IT'S TOO SPREAD OUT TO MATTER.



THIS GUY'S BEEN USING A TON OF POWER TONIGHT, BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS AUGMENTING HIS POWER WITH THE AMBIENT ENERGY

WE USED ONLY AMBIENT ENERGY TO POWER THESE FORMS FOR A BIT AND GOT HIM TO USE UP MORE. TOO.



ONCE THE AMBIENT ENERGY WAS GONE HE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH LEFT IN HIM.



THOSE WINGS OF HIS AREN'T ACTUALLY ENOUGH FOR SOMEONE THAT BIG AND HEAVY SO WITHOUT MAGIC HE PLUMMETED

YOU WERE ONLY USING AMBIENT ENERGY? WE CAN DO THAT?



WE COULDN'T TELL YOU HOW BUT APPARENTLY YES.

THESE FORMS ARE FREAKY LIKE THAT WE CAN FLY IN FORMATION, CHOOSE WHAT ENERGY TO USE AND SO ON BUT I COULDN'T TELL YOU HOW WE WERE DOING IT



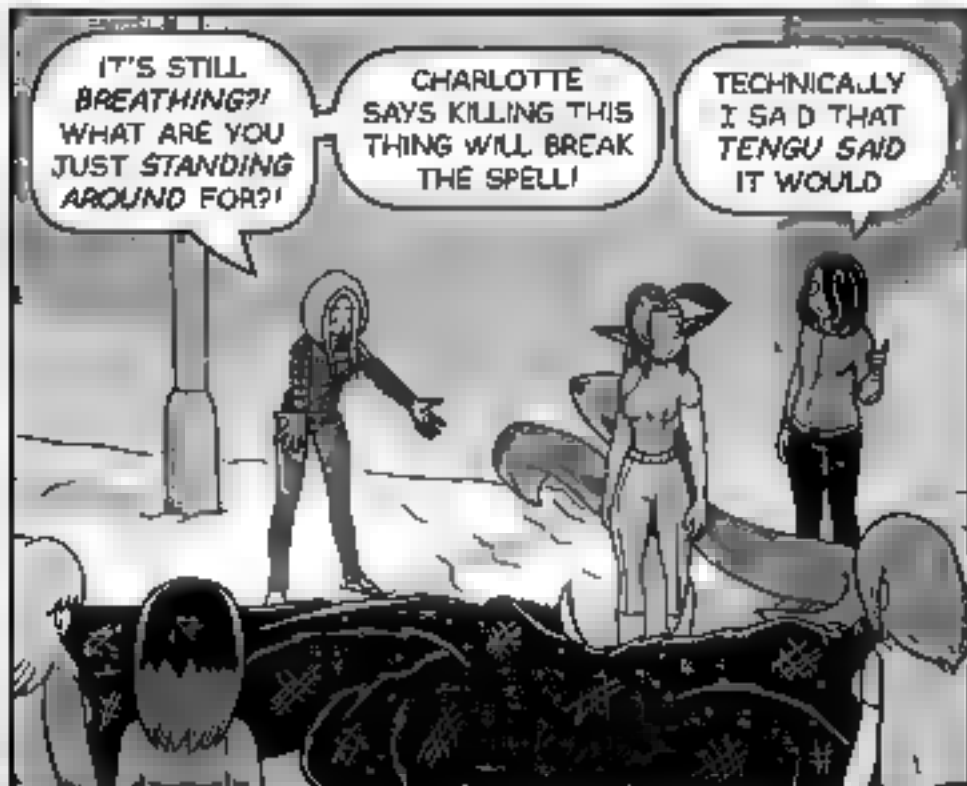
IT'S SORT OF LIKE CHEATING AND GETTING AN "A" WITHOUT KNOWING THE MATERIAL.





JH WE'VE  
GOT COMPANY

S THAT IT?  
IS IT DEAD?!



IT'S STILL  
BREATHING?!  
WHAT ARE YOU  
JUST STANDING  
AROUND FOR?!

CHARLOTTE  
SAYS KILLING THIS  
THING WILL BREAK  
THE SPELL!

TECHNICALLY  
I SAID THAT  
TENGU SAID  
IT WOULD



HE DOESN'T  
HAVE THE POWER  
TO KEEP THE SPELL  
GOING ANYMORE IT  
SHOULD ALREADY

"HE"? ARE YOU SERIOUSLY  
ASKING I SHOW THIS GARBAGE  
PROPER PRONOUN RESPECT?!



YOU MISUNDERSTAND  
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO  
SHOW HIM RESPECT

THEN WHY—



WAIT WHAT'S  
HAPPENING? IS IT  
SHRINKING? WHAT'S  
IT DOING?!

HIS  
FORM IS  
WEARING  
OFF

WHAT?!



AS I WAS  
CLARIFYING. I DON'T  
SAY "HE" OUT OF  
RESPECT



I SAY IT  
BECAUSE HE'S  
HUMAN.



HE'S HUMAN?!

AND SURPRISINGLY,  
WEARING PANTS.

WE WEREN'T  
COMPLETELY CERTAIN,  
BUT OUR ANGEL  
FORMS THOUGHT IT  
MOST LIKELY

WELL, THIS  
SHOULD  
TECHNICALLY  
MAKE HIM  
EASIER TO KILL.  
RIGHT ?

YOUR ANGEL FORMS  
THOUGHT - YOU KNOW  
WHAT? SURE WHATEVER.

AS I WAS SAYING, WE SHOULDN'T NEED  
TO KILL HIM. THE ENCHANTMENTS SHOULD  
ALREADY BE REVERSING THEMSELVES, AND  
MORE HELP IS ON THE WAY

OH SO WE'RE JUST  
GUARDING THIS GUY UNTIL  
THEY SHOW UP?

PRETTY  
MUCH.

AND MY SISTER  
AND RICK... THEY  
SHOULD BE BACK  
TO NORMAL?

I THINK SO. IF NOT THE CAVALRY  
SHOULD BE ABLE TO HELP WE  
SHOULD WAIT FOR THEM BEFORE  
CHECKING JUST TO BE SAFE

I GUESS... CAN I KICK THIS  
JERK IN THE MEANTIME?

PLEASE DON'T

WOULD IT BE RUDE TO  
POINT OUT THE FURRY WOMAN  
AND CHEERLEADER?

YOU CAN  
CALL ME  
SHADE TAIL!

NEAT



SO... WAIT YOUR HAIR IS THE SAME AS BEFORE. AND YOUR HAIR HAS CHANGED COLOR

YES. WELL



SO NEITHER OF YOU HAVE COOL MAGIC POWERS RIGHT NOW

JM... YEAH.

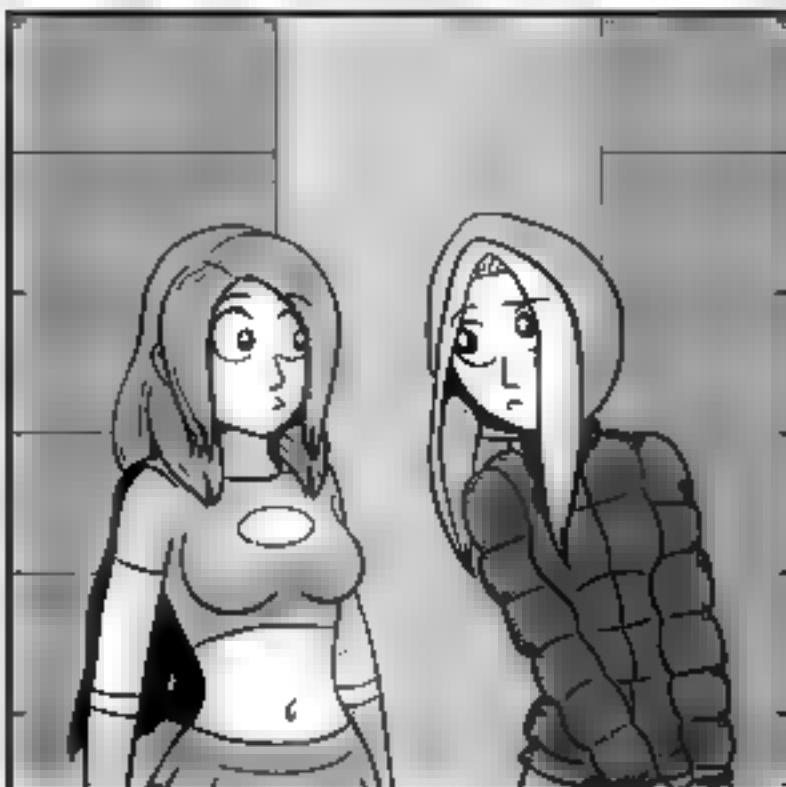
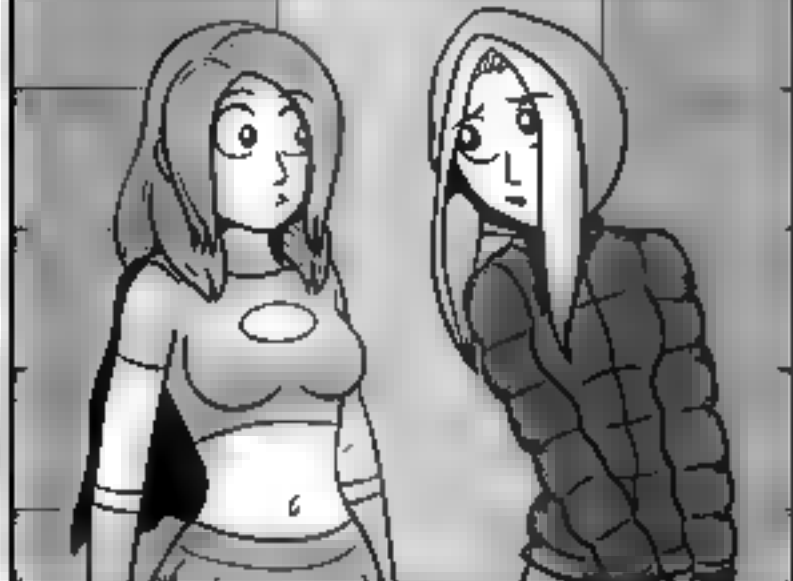


I'M GOING TO GO STAND BY THE SUPER HERO.

SHE ACTUALLY FIGURED OUT WHAT CHARLOTTE MEANT BY "BLACK ROOTS"?



HELLO. I'M DIANE. YOU DON'T MIND KEEPING ME SAFE DO YOU?



UH.

SAFE! YES VERY SAFE



SHE'S LIKE SOME SORT OF SHORTER  
ALTERNATE UNIVERSE VERSION OF  
SUSAN WHO MAKES PUPPY-DOG FACES!



BRAIN! WHAT DO  
I DO WITH THIS  
INFORMATION?!



OH, YOU NEVER  
KNOW WHAT TO DO!

DO YOU THINK  
YOU COULD  
HAVE DEFEATED  
THAT MONSTER?

I DON'T KNOW I'M  
NOT REALLY SURE HOW  
POWERFUL I AM, AND I  
DON'T HAVE MUCH REAL  
FIGHTING EXPERIENCE



INTERESTING. COULD  
YOU QUALIFY YOUR  
STRENGTH SOMEHOW?  
HOW MUCH CAN YOU  
BENCH-PRESS?

I DUNNO. I'VE NEVER  
HAD ACCESS TO A GYM  
WHILE LIKE THIS AND I  
CAN MAKE MYSELF  
STRONGER.



YOU  
CAN?


YEAH, BUT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN  
THE HANG OF HAVING BEEFY MUSCLES  
AND GOOD DEXTERITY, IT'S BETTER  
TO USE A HAPPY MEDIUM



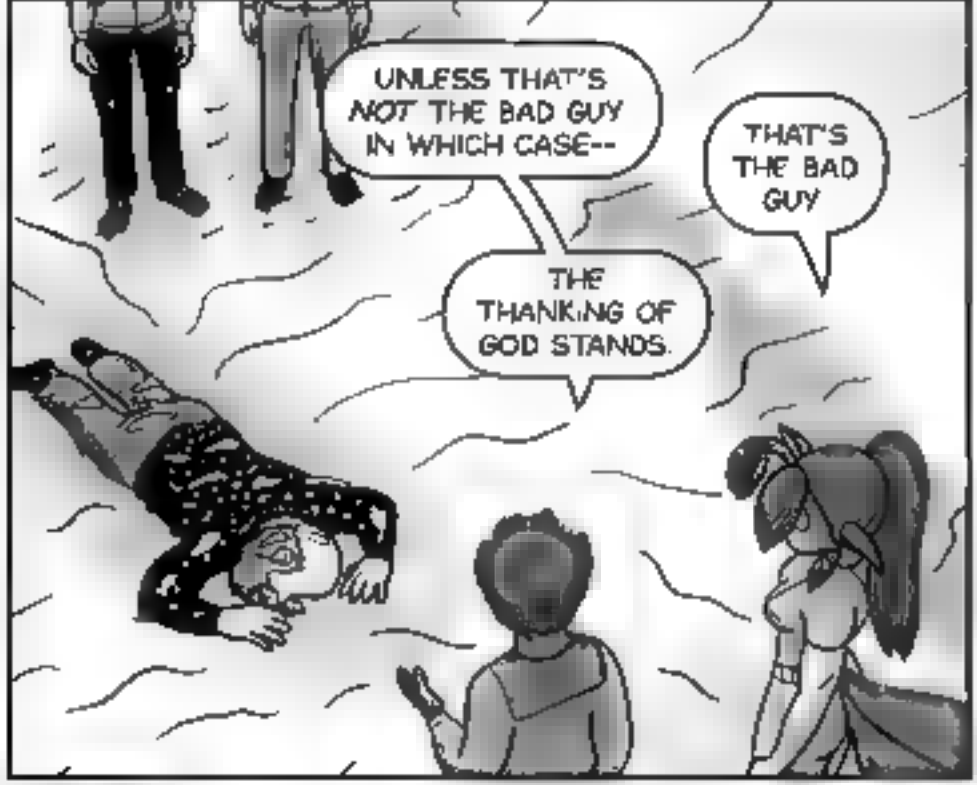
... I HAVE  
A BILLION  
QUESTIONS  
FOR YOU

OH, WELL, BE QUICK  
ABOUT IT I THINK I  
JUST HEARD MR  
VERRES SWEARING  
ABOUT SOMETHING






OH THANK GOD  
YOU'RE ALL OKAY!



UNLESS THAT'S  
NOT THE BAD GUY  
IN WHICH CASE--

THAT'S  
THE BAD  
GUY

THE  
THANKING OF  
GOD STANDS.



I'M SORRY I TOOK SO LONG BUT  
THE FASTEST WAY I COULD GET  
HERE WAS BY CAR, AND THE STREETS  
STILL AREN'T CLEAR OF ALL THIS.



REALLY?! NOW  
YOU STOP WITH  
THE SNOW?!



AT LEAST  
YOU'RE DRESSED  
APPROPRIATELY WE  
WERE AT A PARTY  
BEFORE THIS.



AN AMBULANCE SHOULD BE HERE SOON. LET'S SORT OUT WHAT WE CAN BEFORE THEN WHO IS THIS ALLEGED BAD GUY?



"ALLEGED"?

HIS NAME IS. UM.



HUH. I GUESS IT DOES MATTER WHAT HIS NAME IS.



YOU GIRLS HAVE A GOOD REPUTATION AND WE TRUST YOU BUT WE HAVE A JOB TO DO AND-

HE'S A BAD GUY



YOU RECOGNIZE HIM?

REMEMBER THAT NOTICE WE GOT ABOUT THAT INTERNATIONAL FUGITIVE CULT LEADER OF UNKNOWN "ALIVE" STATUS?



THAT'S... ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

TONIGHT FITS HIS M.O. AND THE ONLY THING THAT DOESN'T FIT HIS DESCRIPTION IS THE SCAR THAT JUST HAPPENS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE LAST KNOWN ENCOUNTER WITH HIM.



HOW ARE YOU NOT ALL DEAD RIGHT NOW?



Shortly after the ambulance arrives.





IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT  
TO KEEP THIS FROM THEM.



IT WOULD ACCOMPLISH  
NOTHING TO TELL THEM. LESS  
THAN NOTHING. IT WOULD BE  
NEGATIVE ACCOMPLISHING.

IT WOULDN'T BE IF HOW  
MAGIC WORKED WAS  
COMMON KNOWLEDGE



IF ~~SIGH~~ FOLLOW  
ME FOR A MOMENT

PEOPLE CANNOT POSSIBLY BE  
BETTER OFF KEPT IN THE DARK



YOU KNOW THAT MAN IN THE  
AMBULANCE RIGHT NOW? THE MAN  
CAPABLE OF AND HAVING ALREADY  
DONE ABSOLUTELY HORRIBLE THINGS?

THERE IS  
NOTHING SPECIAL  
ABOUT HIM.



HE'S JUST AN AVERAGE JERK WHO  
WHEN YOUNGER, STUMBLED ON A WAY  
TO GAIN USE OF MAGIC THAT ALMOST  
ANYONE ON THE PLANET COULD USE

YOU WANT A REAL-LIFE NON-  
HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE OF WHY  
THERE'S SO MUCH SECRECY?



IT'S LYING IN  
THE BACK OF THAT  
AMBULANCE

I'M NOT  
SURE HOW I  
FEEL ABOUT  
THAT

WHATEVER GOOD GENERAL  
KNOWLEDGE OF MAGIC  
COULD DO, THE POTENTIAL  
DAMAGE IS MORE



SOMETIMES WITHHOLDING  
INFORMATION IS THE BEST THING  
YOU CAN DO FOR PEOPLE

S THAT WHY YOU  
HAVEN'T TOLD TEDD THAT  
HIS MOM IS A LEGENDARY  
MONSTER HUNTER?

IS.  
BWUH?



I ASSUME TEDD  
DOESN'T KNOW THAT  
ABOUT HIS MOM. IT'S  
THE SORT OF THING  
THAT WOULD'VE  
COME UP

SO HE WAS  
HERE FOR  
REVENGE BUT  
HOW DID HE  
EVEN FIND

HE WAS DRAWN TO  
THE EXCESS MAGIC AND  
ELLEN AND I ARE MINOR  
CELEBRITIES. NOW WHY  
DOESN'T TEDD KNOW?

IT'S FOR HIS  
OWN GOOD "WHY"  
DOESN'T MATTER.  
YOU'RE BURDENED  
WITH ENOUGH  
SECRETS.



WHO SAYS I'M  
GOING TO KEEP  
THIS A SECRET  
FROM HIM?

NANASE IF YOU CARE AT ALL  
ABOUT YOUR COUSIN YOU  
WILL NOT TELL HIM ABOUT  
HIS MOTHER. TELL HIM THE  
ATTACKER WAS OUT TO GET  
REVENGE ON ME BUT DO NOT  
MENTION HIS MOTHER

WHY SHOULDN'T I?



BECAUSE REGARDLESS OF WHAT ELSE YOU  
MIGHT THINK OF WHAT I DO YOU KNOW I  
DO IT TO PROTECT PEOPLE. TEDD IS MY SON.  
YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T BE SAYING THIS IF  
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS BEST FOR HIM

OH. COME ON.  
HOW BAD COULD  
IT POSSIBLY BE  
FOR TEDD TO  
KNOW?

REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE  
YOUNGER AND TEDD WAS  
SO WITHDRAWN THAT YOU  
THOUGHT HE WAS MUTE?

WELL @##\$

LANGUAGE!



YEAH. SORRY TO INTERRUPT  
YOUR LITTLE MEETING. BUT...

DIANE?

LOOK. I DON'T KNOW WHAT  
EXACTLY YOU TWO ARE TALKING  
ABOUT BUT I KNOW TRUTH-TELLING  
IS AT THE CENTER OF IT AND

NANASE I KNOW  
YOU MEAN WELL...

BECAUSE YOU'RE  
YOU. AND THAT'S  
WHAT YOU DO...

BUT IF IT'S TRUE THAT THEY HAVE  
NO MEMORY OF ANYTHING BEING  
WRONG. THEN THEY'LL JUST THINK  
WE'RE NUTS. OR THEY'LL FEEL SUPER  
CREEPED OUT, OR WORSE

IT FEELS LIKE THE ONLY  
REASON TO TELL THEM IS TO  
MAKE US FEEL BETTER.

NOW, NORMALLY, I'D BE DOWN WITH  
THAT BUT I'D RATHER WE ALL FEEL  
GUILTY ABOUT LYING THAN HURT RHEA.  
SHE'S MY SISTER AND I LOVE HER.

DIANE...

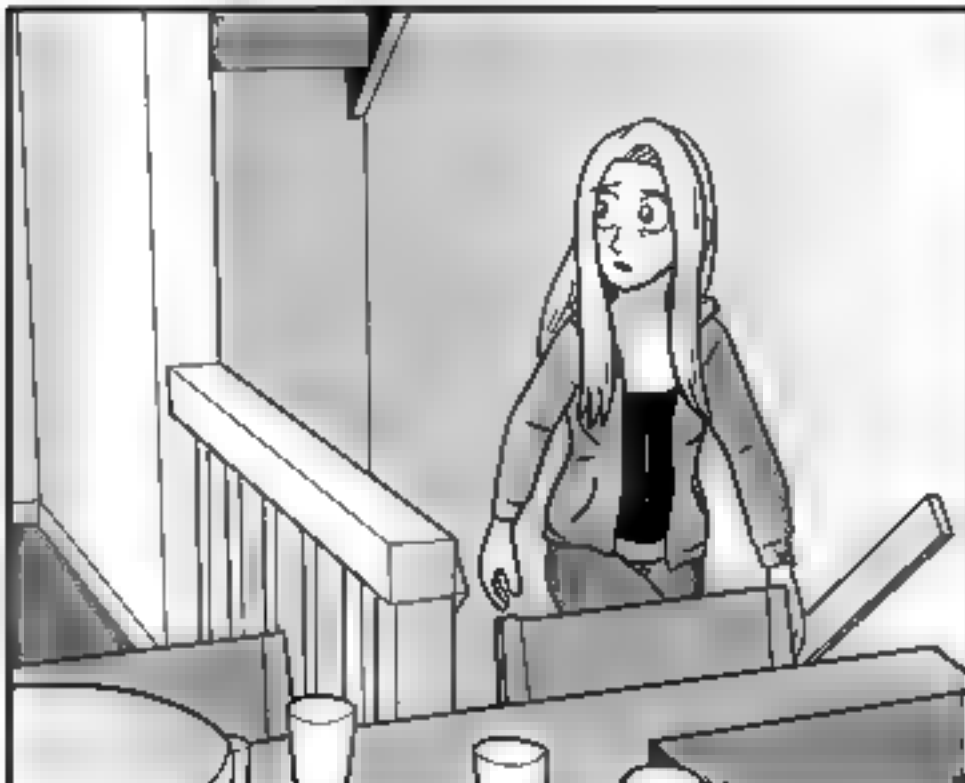
IF SHE'S PERFECTLY HAPPY AND  
DOESN'T REMEMBER. AND YOU TELL  
HER? I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU

I WILL ALSO NEVER  
FORGIVE YOU IF YOU TELL  
HER I SAID I LOVE HER.

SHE'S INSUFFERABLE  
ENOUGH AS IT IS.

Not much later





ARE YOU SURE  
SHE GOT YOUR HAIR  
COLOR RIGHT?

HONESTLY? NO.  
BUT WHATEVER.  
IT'S FINE

SO WE'RE NOT  
GOING TO TELL  
THEM WHAT  
HAPPENED.

ARE YOU  
OKAY WITH  
THAT?

I DON'T LIKE IT BUT IF THEY  
DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING  
BEING WEIRD IT WON'T HELP  
ANYTHING WILL IT?

DON'T BE TENGU  
MIGHT HAVE BEEN  
AFTER YOU BUT  
THAT'S NOT YOUR  
FAULT DIANE FEELS  
THE SAME WAY

SO THAT  
THING IS HERE  
BECAUSE OF  
NANASE!

IT'S NOT  
HER FAULT  
IT

I AM SO SORRY  
ABOUT ALL THIS.

OF COURSE IT'S NOT HER FAULT!  
ALL SHE'S GUILTY OF IS HAVING AN  
AUNT WHO SAVED PEOPLE JUST LIKE  
SHE WOULD! IT'S THAT MONSTER  
WHO'S THE ASSHOLE!

INCIDENTALLY I'M  
PRETTY SURE DIANE HAS  
A PLATONIC WOMAN-  
CRUSH ON YOU

AT LEAST I  
ASSUME T'S  
PLATONIC



I GUESS ON THE PLUS SIDE. I DID GET TO SEE SPOOKY THINGS FIRSTHAND FOR ONCE. I'D BE LYING IF I SAID IT WASN'T SORT OF COOL IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING ELSE.



WE STOPPED THE BAD GUY SO I THINK IT'S OKAY TO ADMIT THAT



GOOD. BECAUSE I THINK THE IMAGE OF A ROOM FULL OF YOU'S WITH VARIOUS OUTFITS, HAIRSTYLES AND SKIN TONES IS GONNA BE STUCK IN MY HEAD FOR A WHILE.



ME TOO BUT FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. THAT WAS SO CREEPY



TRY IMAGINING A BUNCH OF ME'S INSTEAD

THAT'S... AN INTERESTING THOUGHT

CONFLICTING.

BUT INTERESTING



IT'S ALSO GOOD TO KNOW I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF ANGELS TO CALL ON IF I SUSPECT SPOOKY THINGS ARE AFOOT

SO DOES THAT MAKE US "CHARLOTTE'S ANGELS"?



YES. YES IT DOES.

WAIT WHAT? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

OOH, WE HAVE THINGS TO WATCH LATER



AND SO AFTER AN EVENTFUL EVENING, EVERYTHING TURNS OUT OKAY IN THE END.

ALL THANKS TO ME THE HANDSOME IMMORTAL WHO GUIDED DIANE AWAY FROM THE PUNCH AND USED SNOW ANGELS TO ENSURE ELLEN WOULD USE HER COPY SPELL ON NANASE!

HELL, IF I WASN'T HERE THAT CHICK MIGHT'VE TRIED COPYING THAT BEARDED BAT-JERK.

WHICH GIVEN THE SPELL'S SHORT RANGE AND THE FACT THAT IT WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED, WOULD'VE ENDED BADLY SO BAM!

SO YEAH! I SAVED SUSAN'S LONG-LOST SISTER AND THAT BUSTY BABE WHO'S ALSO PART OF THE DEBT!

I GUESS THE DEBT IS PAID AND I CAN JUST

**I VOWED!**

**DAMMIT, JERRY!**

YOU JUST HAD TO GO AND START MAKING PROMISES BEFORE YOU DIED DIDN'T YOU?!







WELL,  
THE WORLD  
IS ALREADY  
SPINNING.

WE MAY  
AS WELL  
TALK ABOUT  
OUR WEB  
OF LIES.



OUR WEB OF *SELECTIVELY*  
*NOT SHARED* INFORMATION. IT'S  
WORDIER, BUT SOUNDS NICER.



CALL IT  
WHATEVER IT  
STILL STINKS.



YOU STICKING  
WITH YOUR  
DECISION TO  
NOT TALK TO  
YOUR MOM?

EITHER SHE KNOWS  
MORE THAN SHE LETS  
ON AND THINKS SHE  
HAS A GOOD REASON  
TO KEEP IT FROM ME



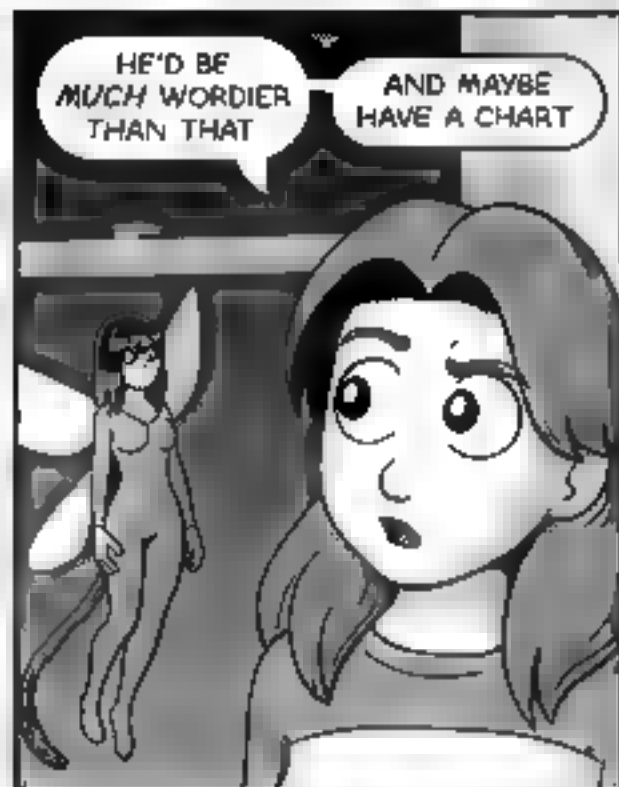
OR SHE REALLY  
*DOESN'T* KNOW ABOUT  
MAGIC AND HER SISTER  
FIGHTING MONSTERS.

I WOULDN'T EVEN  
KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN  
EXPLAINING IT I'M NOT  
EVEN SURE IT WOULD BE  
THE RIGHT THING TO DO



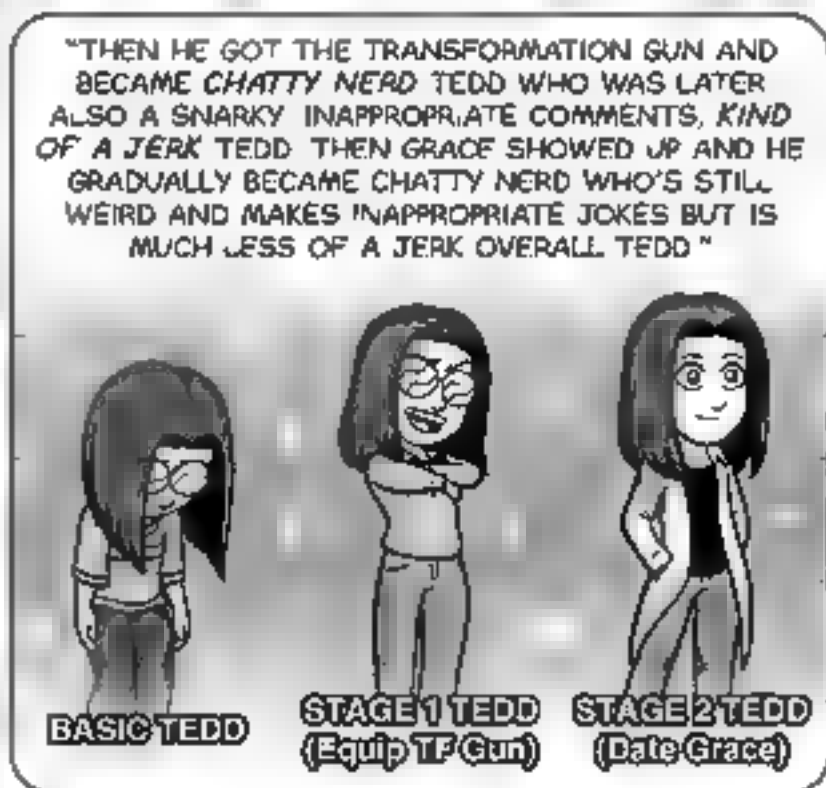
I'D ASK UNCLE EDWARD ABOUT IT  
BUT I KNOW WHAT HE'D SAY "OF  
COURSE SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANY-  
THING! STOP BEING INQUISITIVE!"

NOW NOW,  
WE BOTH  
KNOW THAT'S  
NOT TRUE.



HE'D BE  
MUCH WORDIER  
THAN THAT

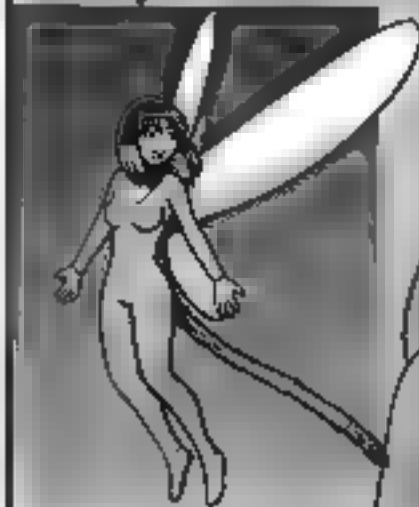
AND MAYBE  
HAVE A CHART





WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY TELLING TEDD WOULD BE SUCH A BIG DEAL!

I DON'T KNOW HOW MOST BOMBS WORK! I STILL DON'T KICK THEM!



ARGH FINE WE WON'T RISK BREAKING TEDD BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LIE IF HE ASKS ME ABOUT IT

HOW WOULD HE KNOW TO ASK?



I DON'T KNOW

WHAT ABOUT SUSAN? WE CAN RISK BREAKING HER RIGHT? SHE CAN TAKE THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING ADOPTED.

PROBABLY BUT NO. WE SHOULD HOLD OFF ON THAT



WHAT

BECAUSE IF SHE IS ADOPTED AND IF SHE DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE'S STILL THE POSSIBILITY THAT HER ADOPTED MOM WILL TELL HER.



AND SUSAN JUST TURNED EIGHTEEN. IF SHE WAS PUTTING IT OFF BUT INTENDED TO TELL SUSAN EVENTUALLY



RIGHT IF SHE'S GOING TO TELL HER, IT'LL BE SOON. AND IT WOULD BE A LOT BETTER IF SUSAN HEARD IT FROM HER MOM.

AND IF NOT, WE CAN TRY TO TALK TO SUSAN'S MOM FIRST GIVE HER ANOTHER CHANCE TO BE THE ONE TO TELL.



FRANKLY IF SUSAN AND DIANE MEETING AND SWAPPING NOTES EVENTUALLY WASN'T PRETTY MUCH INEVITABLE. I'D QUESTION IF THIS WAS ANY OF OUR BUSINESS.



NEVER HAS "MEDDLING" BEEN A MORE APPROPRIATE DESCRIPTION FOR US.

IT'S OUR BUSINESS BECAUSE SUSAN IS OUR FRIEND.

I KNOW IT'S JUST FAMILY'S COMPLICATED. YOU KNOW? SUSAN LOVES HER MOM. IT FEELS WRONG NOT TO TELL HER, BUT IT ALSO FEELS WRONG TO STICK OUR NOSES IN HER FAMILY'S BUSINESS.

WE DIDN'T STICK OUR NOSES ANYWHERE. OUR NOSES WERE MINDING THEIR OWN BUSINESS WHEN DIANE GOT THROWN AT THEM.

NOW THERE'S A VISUAL.

IT'S THE SAME WITH TEDD'S MOM. HE SHOULD BE TOLD

TEDD'S MOM? WE'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT TEDD'S MOM? BUT YOU SAID "FINE"!

I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULD RUN OUT AND TELL HIM. I'M SAYING IT'S A SIMILAR SITUATION.

WE SHOULD BE TRYING TO CONVINCE TEDD'S DAD TO TELL HIM. OR AT LEAST GET HIM TO EXPLAIN IN MORE DETAIL WHY WE SHOULDN'T

EITHER GETTING TEDD'S DAD TO DO OUR DIRTY WORK FOR US, OR MAKING IT CLEAR WHY WE SHOULDN'T TELL TEDD

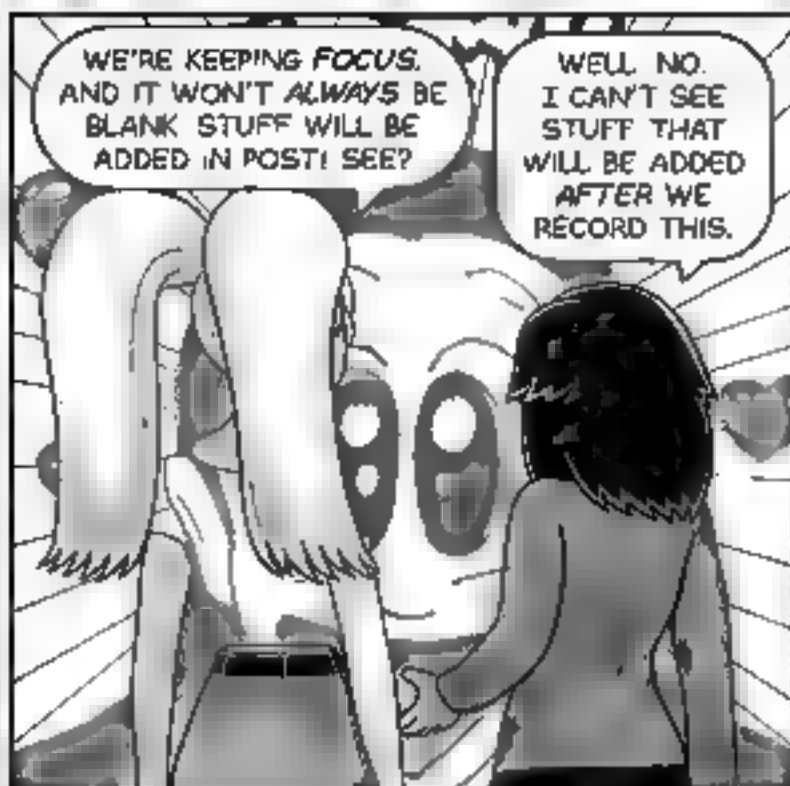
OR GETTING NOTHING AND TELLING TEDD ANYWAY BECAUSE HE'S OUR FRIEND AND AN ADULT

BUT HE MIGHT EXPLODE!

TEDD IS NOT A BOMB.

KABOOM.





See commentary for ways to send questions!

AH. BLUE! THAT'S BETTER. ON TO TODAY'S QUESTION!

IN ANSWER TO WHETHER AMANDA WOULD TAKE MY SUGGESTION "NO" SORRY

"WHY DID AGENT CRANIUM USE MAGIC TO CHANGE ELLEN'S HAIR BACK TO (ALMOST) NORMAL AFTER ELLEN'S MAGIC BURNOUT BUT DIDN'T FOR NANASE?"

AGENT CRANIUM USES ENCHANTMENTS TO CHANGE HAIR COLORS, AND THOSE ARE AS A RULE TEMPORARY

ALSO UNLESS SOMEONE HAS AVERAGE RESISTANCE (AS IN "ALMOST NONE") AN EXACT DURATION IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW

NANASE WAS ON THE VERGE OF BURNING OUT EVEN BEFORE SHE USED THE ANGEL GUARDIAN FORM AND WAS EXPECTED TO REMAIN BURNED OUT FOR A LONG TIME.

KEEPING THE ENCHANTMENT GOING WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPRACTICAL.

ELLEN MOSTLY USED AMBIENT ENERGY AND ONLY BURNED OUT DUE TO IT BEING A SIDE EFFECT OF GUARDIAN FORM USAGE

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD LISA?

BASED ON OUR HAIR? ASK LEADING QUESTIONS, PLEASE

HUH?

KEEPING UP APPEARANCES FOR THE PARTY WAS EASY TO DO

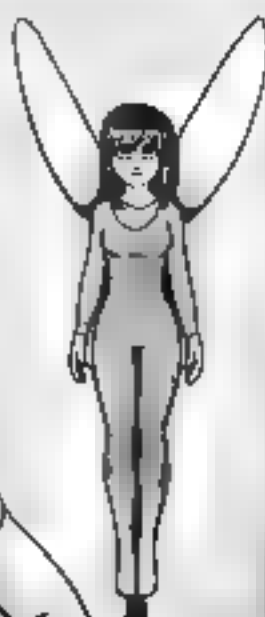
TODAY'S QUESTION IS  
"WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF  
ELLEN USED HER COPY SPELL  
ON NANASE'S FAIRY DOLL?"



WELL, OBVIOUSLY NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN IF SHE USED IT  
ON THE DOLL WHEN IT'S ACTUALLY A DOLL BECAUSE  
SHE CAN'T COPY INANIMATE OBJECTS.



SO MUCH FOR  
TOMORROW'S  
QUESTION.



AND TECHNICALLY WHEN NANASE IS USING THE FAIRY DOLL,  
ITS PHYSIOLOGY IS EXACTLY LIKE A TINY NANASE WITH  
WINGS AND A TAIL (UNLIKE WHEN SHE ISN'T WHEN IT'S  
LIKE A COMMON DOLL WITH A NANASE-LIKE HEAD)  
SO YOU'D THINK IT WOULD WORK...



AND SO MUCH FOR  
FRIDAY'S



BUT ELLEN'S COPY SPELL SUPPOSEDLY  
AND THIS IS NEW INFORMATION.  
SUPPOSEDLY DOESN'T WORK ON  
SUMMONS. SO SHE COULDN'T COPY  
NANASE'S "FOX" DUPLICATE EITHER



WAIT THE FAIRY DOLL  
COUNTS AS A SUMMON?

I THINK  
IT DOES.



BUT SHE DOESN'T  
SUMMON THE FAIRY DOLL  
SHE OCCUPIES ONE SHE'S  
ALREADY MADE



THAT MIGHT  
HM. YOU KNOW  
I'M NOT SURE.



SOMEONE SEND  
ELLEN A MEMO TO  
ZAPPA THE FAIRY!





"WHY WOULD A SMALLER SPELL CATALYST REQUIRE MORE ENERGY TO USE?"

IN ADDITION TO LETTING SOMEONE CAST SPELLS, SPELL CATALYSTS CAN STORE ENERGY

THE SMALLER THE CATALYST HOWEVER, THE LESS ENERGY IT CAN STORE.

THIS QUESTION REFERENCES A POINT BROUGHT UP BY AN INTER-DIMENSIONAL WHALE THING IN REGARD TO TEDD'S WATCHES.

IT'S NOT THAT SMALL CATALYSTS MAKE SPELLS COST MORE

IT'S THAT LARGER CATALYSTS CAN STORE MORE ENERGY MEANING THE CASTER DOESN'T NEED TO USE AS MUCH OF THEIR OWN ENERGY

BASICALLY? TEDD'S WATCHES DON'T HAVE BATTERIES. WHATEVER ENERGY IS BEING USED IS PROVIDED BY THE CASTER.

**BOOM**

OF COURSE, IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT SIZE. MATERIAL CAN MATTER. AND A WELL CRAFTED WAND CAN BE MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT THAN A BIG STAFF

NONETHELESS, THE WATCHES ARE TOO SMALL TO HELP SOMEONE CAST A SPELL BEYOND GIVING THEM ACCESS TO A SPELL.

**Poof**

"WHEN GRACE REDUCED HER."

UM. MEASURE  
MENTS

"AFTER BEING ZAPPED BY  
ELLEN, WAS SHE CANCELING  
THE ENCHANTMENT?"

NO BECAUSE SHE WAS NEVER  
ENCHANTED IN THE FIRST PLACE!  
URYUUM MAGIC (AND ELLEN'S  
BEAMS) DON'T ACTUALLY ENCHANT  
URYUOMS AND URYUUM HYBRIDS.

IT TRANSFORMS THEM  
AND GIVES THEM THE  
ABILITY TO REUSE THAT  
TRANSFORMATION BUT  
THEY AREN'T ENCHANTED.

THIS BRINGS UP ANOTHER POINT URYUUM  
ENCHANTMENTS REPLACE EACH OTHER. MEANING  
YOU WOULDN'T GET COMBINED RESULTS IF YOU  
ZAPPED A HUMAN WITH ONE AND THEN ANOTHER

SINCE URYUOMS AND URYUUM HYBRIDS AREN'T  
REALLY ENCHANTED BY URYUUM MAGIC HOW-  
EVER, YOU CAN GET COMBINED RESULTS FROM  
STACKING TRANSFORMATIONS WITH THEM.

IT VARIES WHAT MAGIC WILL  
COMBINE REPLACE. OR CANCEL  
EACH OTHER OUT THERE ARE  
MANY FACTORS THAT--

FACTORS  
SMACTORS!  
LET'S GET  
ELLEN TO ZAP  
GRACE TWICE!

WHAT  
QUESTION  
WOULD THAT  
ANSWER?

WHO CA--WAIT  
GAH! QUICK! SOMEONE  
GET ME MY MORE  
COWBELL WAND!

LET'S SEE... TODAY'S QUESTION IS, "WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF GRACE AND ELIJAH MET AND AGREED THAT SOMETHING WAS ADORABLE?"

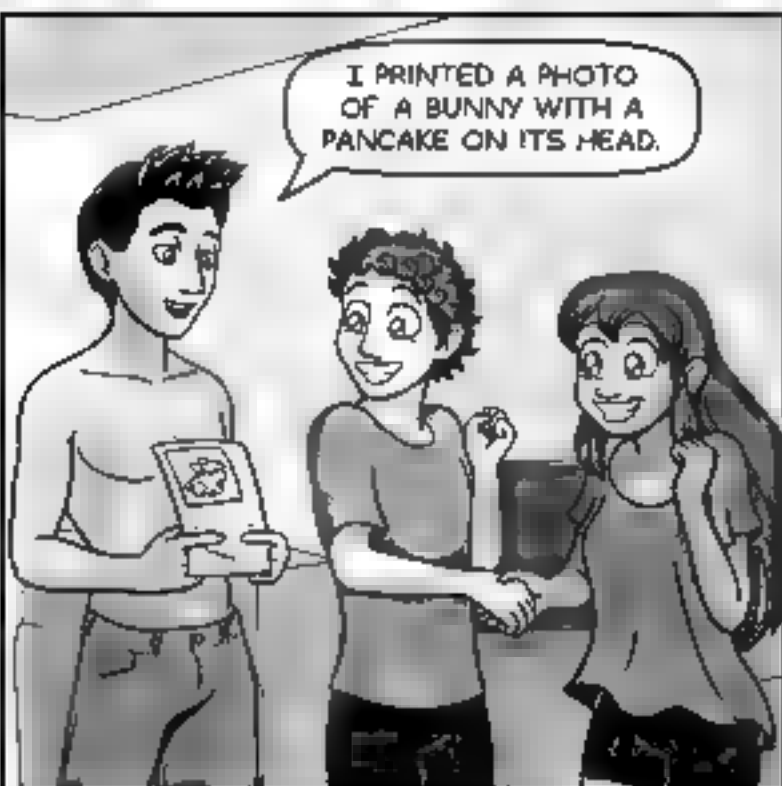


HELLO. I AM ELIJAH.

AND I AM GRACE  
IT IS A PLEASURE  
TO MEET YOU



I PRINTED A PHOTO  
OF A BUNNY WITH A  
PANCAKE ON ITS HEAD.



OKAY  
MAYBE THAT  
WOULDN'T  
HAPPEN, BUT  
STILL

WHAT NO PANCAKES?



"IF ELLIOT WERE ZAPPED BY ELLEN OR THE TF GUN COULD HE JUST TRANSFORM BACK? WOULD HE STILL BE TRANSFORMED BY THE ZAPPING IF HE ENDED HIS OWN SPELL?"



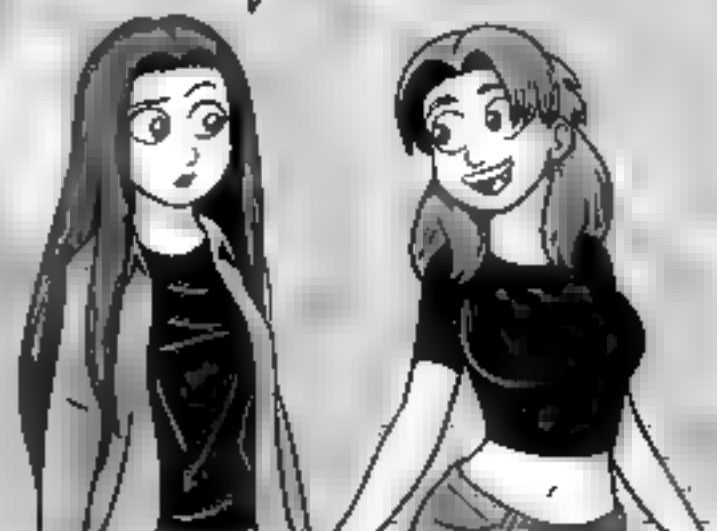
HE COULDN'T, ACTUALLY WHILE ELLIOT CAN CHANGE INTO THE EQUIVALENT OF A VS TRANSFORMATION. IT'S NOT THE SAME AS BEING ZAPPED WITH THE TF GUN AND HIS FORMS ARE NOT REPLACED OR CANCELED OUT BY TF GUN BEAMS.



ELLEN'S BEAMS, HOWEVER, ARE LIKE THE TF GUN. THEY WILL REPLACE DIFFERENT URYUOM MAGIC MORPHS AND CANCEL OUT IDENTICAL ONES.

ZAPPING ME ONCE DOESN'T REALLY DEMONSTRATE THAT

SORRY! LIMITED PANEL SPACE



THIS IS BECAUSE THE DEWITCHERY DIAMOND GAVE ELLEN THE ABILITY TO MIMIC THE *DELIVERY METHOD* OF ELLIOT'S TRANSFORMATION, AND CONSEQUENTLY IT MIMICS URYUOM MAGIC

OKAY SO HOW ABOUT NOW?

YOU USED UP THIS PANEL BY ASKING!



ELLIOT CAN REASSUME THE VS FORM, BUT THAT DOES NOT MIMIC URYUOM MAGIC IT'S THE SAME ABILITY ANY "CURSED" INDIVIDUAL WHO USED THE DIAMOND WOULD GAIN.



ELLIOT'S FORMS AND TF GUN MORPHS ARE ENTIRELY SEPARATE AND CAN BEGIN AND END, INDEPENDENT OF EACH OTHER.

HUH. THAT VISUAL FOR THE LAST PANEL WAS AN ODD CHOICE.

I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S AN EXCUSE TO HAVE JS BE SOMETHING OTHER THAN VS'D AGAIN.



"WHAT DOES SUSAN THINK OF THE J.J. ABRAMS STAR TREK MOVIES?"

THE ONES WHERE THEY PUT ALL THE WOMEN BACK IN SKIRT UNIFORMS? IS IT REALLY SAFE TO ASK HER ABOUT THAT?

THE SKIMPY FEMALE UNIFORMS, AND IN FACT SEVERAL THINGS ABOUT THE ORIGINAL STAR TREK SERIES SEEM OFF WHEN VIEWED FROM A MODERN PERSPECTIVE

WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE ERA OF TELEVISION IN WHICH IT WAS MADE. HOWEVER, THE SHOW WAS *GROUNDBREAKING* IN TERMS OF EQUALITY AND REPRESENTATION.

I HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR THE ORIGINAL SERIES THAT INCLUDES ITS UNIFORMS.

NICHELLE NICHOLS WORE THAT UNIFORM. I'M NOT GOING TO DISRESPECT IT AND I'M HAPPY THAT THEY WENT WITH SIMILAR DESIGNS.

OH! SO YOU LIKED THE REBOOT MOVIES, THEN?

I NEVER SAID THAT.

...OH, UH... OKAY THEN! MOVING ON. NEXT QUESTION. YES.

I LIKE THEM.

"HOW MUCH CONTROL DOES GRACE HAVE OVER INDIVIDUAL PARTS OF HER BODY? I THOUGHT SHE HAD TO GAIN FORMS FROM THE GUN. BUT SHE SAID SHE'S IN FULL CONTROL OF HER BREAST SIZE AND BEHIND-THE-SCENES STUFF SAID SHE CAN LENGTHEN HER ARMS."

YOU SHOULD MAD SCIENCE UP A WAY FOR ME TO DO BOTH THOSE THINGS.



GRACE HAS A LOT OF CONTROL OVER THE MINUTE DETAILS OF HER FORM, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT GRACE DOES NEED THE TF GUN. OR ANY COSMETIC MORPHING DEVICE TO OBTAIN NEW MORPHS

YEAH! FAT CAT GRACE!

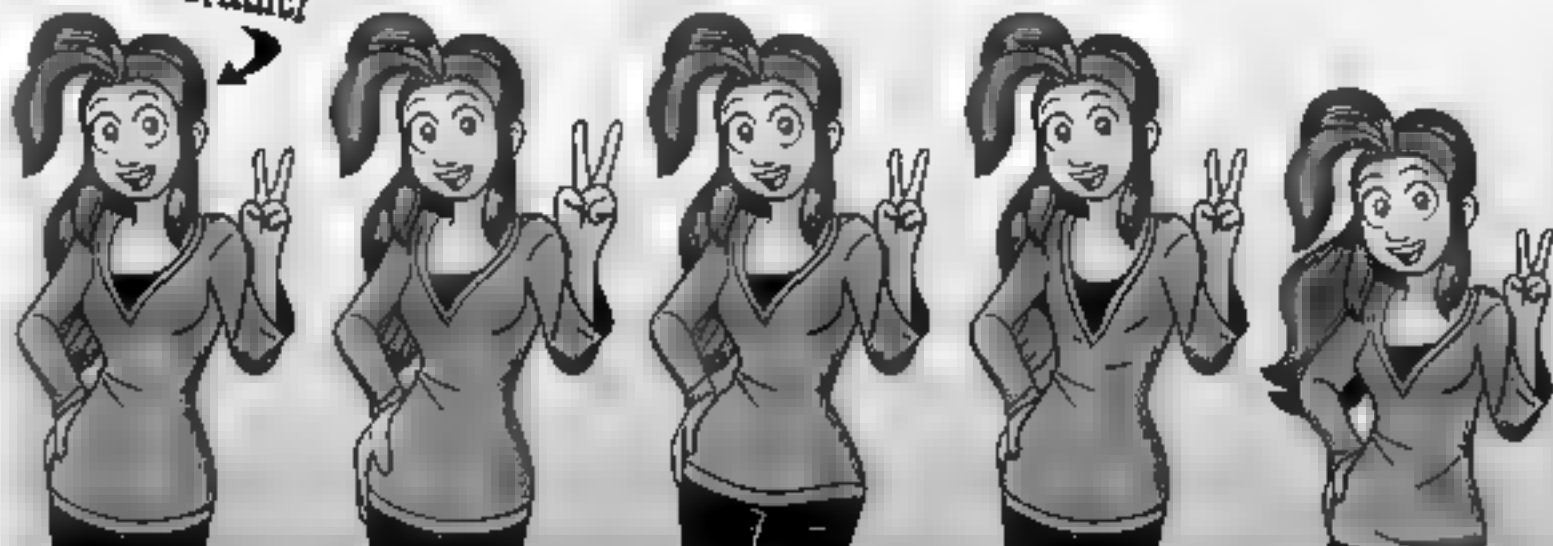
NOW HOW DOES THIS MAKE ME WEALTHY?



THING IS. THE TF GUN CAN BE PROGRAMMED WITH PARTIAL MORPHS THAT RESULT IN SMALL CHANGES AND SHE CAN MIX THEM UP WITH NO KNOWN LIMIT

TEDD AND SARAH HAVE BOTH HELPED WITH DECIDING ON, AND PROGRAMMING SUCH PARTIAL MORPHS. THE END RESULT BEING THAT GRACE CAN DRAMATICALLY CHANGE HER APPEARANCE USING COMBINATIONS OF THOSE ALONE

Default!



GRACE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ASSUME ANY EXACT FORM SHE WANTS BUT SHE'S AT THE POINT WHERE SHE CAN APPROXIMATE MOST YOUNG ADULT HUMAN FORMS

SO HOW CLOSE AM I TO ELIJOT?



IN THEORY ANYWAY PEOPLE ARE PRETTY VARIED SO EXCEPTIONS CAN BE DIFFICULT TO PREDICT





"WAS NOT-TENGU AN ABERRATION? IF NOT THEN WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH ABERRATIONS?"

SUP?

NOT TENGU WAS NOT AN ABERRATION. AT LEAST NOT THE SORT OF "ABERRATION" WE'RE REFERRING TO. THAT BEING A PARASITIC MONSTER THING THAT USED TO BE HUMAN.

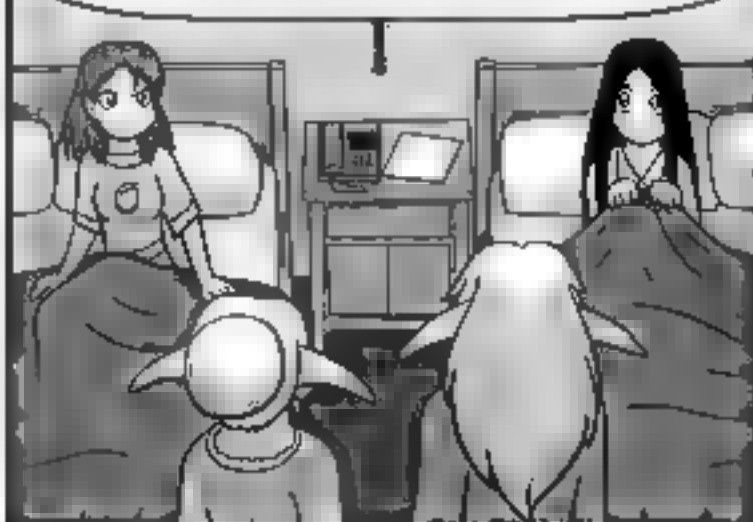


ABERRATIONS VARY GREATLY IN FORM, ABILITIES, AND METHOD OF BEING ALL SPOOKY AND PARASITIC. BUT THEY ALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING THINGS IN COMMON:

- Used to be human and chose to become aberrations
- Parasitic existence feeding on humans to lengthen lifespan
- Monstrous form, either all the time or just when using powers.
- A complete lack of empathy for other living beings.
- No known way to return to being a regular human



THEY'RE BASICALLY BY CHOICE THE WORST OF THE WORST IMMORTALS MAKE IT A POINT TO BE VAGUE AND INDIRECT IN THEIR GUIDING AND POWERING OF PEOPLE EXCEPT WHEN ABERRATIONS ARE INVOLVED. THEY'RE WILLING TO BE MUCH MORE DIRECT THAN USUAL WHEN TRYING TO GET RID OF THEM.



GRANTED NOT-TENGU HAD A MONSTER FORM HE CHOSE TO USE AND DIDN'T SEEM TO CARE MUCH ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS. BUT STILL, NO.



I AM SOOOOO HAPPY WE JUST WOUND UP WITH LONG EARS WITH THIS QUESTION.

AND NOW THE QUESTION WE WERE GOING TO ANSWER BEFORE WE WERE INTERRUPTED: "WHAT DOES JUSTIN THINK OF THE J.J. ABRAMS *STAR TREK* MOVIES?"

WHAT REALLY? HE PROBABLY FEELS THE SAME AS SUSAN.

OH! UM, THE J.J. ABRAMS MOVIES. YEAH. THEY UH.

THEY HAVE A LOT OF LENS FLARES! YEAH

ANNND THEY'RE NOT VERY TREK-ISH, ARE THEY? I HEARD ABRAMS DIDN'T EVEN LIKE THE *STAR TREK* TV SHOWS. A COMPLETE BETRAYAL AND.

I CAN'T DO IT! I LOVE THE NEW *STAR TREK* MOVIES!

YEAH THEY FAIL AS *STAR TREK*, BUT THEY'RE ENTERTAINING AND FUN AND CHRIS PINE IS ADORABLE!

*INTO DARKNESS* HAS BOTH ZACHARY QUINTO AND BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH IN IT! I KNOW BENEDICT WAS MISCAST AND THERE'S CONTROVERSY AND STUFF BUT HE'S *SHERLOCK @#\$%ING HOLMES* AND HE'S DOING STUFF WITH KIRK AND SPOCK! I CAN'T HATE IT!

I STAND CORRECTED.

AND NOW FOR OUR  
NEXT QUESTION--

«HOLD IT!»\*



\* Translated from French

«YOU LEFT OUT SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT  
IN YOUR ANSWER TO THE QUESTION ABOUT  
ABERRATIONS. SO IMPORTANT THAT IT'S THE  
VERY REASON SUSAN WAS ATTACKED. AND  
LIKELY WHY IMMORTALS RECRUITED US INSTEAD  
OF GETTING PROPER HELP FROM ADULTS!»



«ABERRATIONS  
ARE UNIVERSALLY  
DIFFICULT TO HARM  
WITH PHYSICAL  
ATTACKS, BUT ARE  
WEAK AGAINST  
MAGIC WEAPONS!»

«EVEN THE MAGIC  
HAMMERS, INTENDED  
ONLY TO STUN MEN FOR  
THE AMUSEMENT OF A  
ONCE IMMATURE  
IMMORTAL, ARE USEFUL  
AGAINST THEM!»



«SUSAN HAS A NATURAL TALENT FOR  
MAGIC INVOLVING THE SUMMONING OF MAGIC  
WEAPONRY AND HAS A NATURAL ADVANTAGE  
AGAINST ABERRATIONS THAT MOST DO NOT!»



«THIS FACT HAS HAD A MAJOR  
IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF BOTH  
SUSAN AND MYSELF IT IS TO BE  
ACKNOWLEDGED GOOD DAY.»



„DID SHE KNOW  
SHE WAS SPEAKING  
JAPANESE?»

I'M PRETTY  
SURE THAT  
WAS FRENCH.

WELL IT'S  
ALL GREEK  
TO ME



"WILL THERE EVER BE SHRINKING IN THE MAIN STORY TO SMALLER THAN THE CURRENT LIMITS OF THE TF GUN?"

YES.

WHAT?!  
AMANDA THAT'S  
A SPOILER!

OH PLEASE IT'S BEEN FORESHADOWED ALL OVER THE PLACE. AND BESIDES I'M JUST CONFIRMING PEOPLE WILL WIND UP BELOW WHAT? SEVENTY-NINE PERCENT SCALE. AKA HALF-SIZED WHEN YOU CONSIDER ALL THREE DIMENSIONS? THAT COULD IMPLY ANY NUMBER OF THINGS!

LIKE MAYBE SARAH SUDDENLY GETS MAGIC AND ACCIDENTALLY SHRINKS ELLIOT AND JUSTIN WHILE THEY'RE ALL OUT IN PUBLIC SOMEWHERE!

AND THEN SHE CAN'T UNDO IT RIGHT AWAY SO SHE HAS TO GRAB THEM AND CARRY THEM BACK TO HER HOUSE!

AND THEN A SIDE EFFECT OF BEING SHRUNK IS BEING ATTRACTED TO OTHER SHRUNKEN PEOPLE. SO SUDDENLY ELLIOT IS CRAZY ATTRACTED TO JUSTIN!

AND  
THEN...

I WOULD POINT OUT THAT SAYING THIS PRETTY MUCH GUARANTEES IT WON'T HAPPEN. BUT I DON'T THINK IT WAS ALL THAT LIKELY ANYWAY

"WHAT ARE THE LIMITS OF THE TF GUN? CAN IT TURN PEOPLE INTO THINGS OTHER THAN MAMMALS? COULD IT MAKE SOMEONE INANIMATE?"



IN ANSWER TO THE INANIMATE QUESTION I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO HOLD UP THE FOLLOWING ENORMOUS SIGN.



**NO**



(I THINK DAN IS WEIRDED OUT BY THAT SORT OF THING)

(BUT NOT CHIBIS APPARENTLY)

IN RESPONSE TO THE "OTHER THAN MAMMALS" QUESTION, SORT OF THE TF GUN WON'T GO AND MAKE YOU COLD BLOODED OR GIVE YOU HOLLOW BIRD BONES BUT IT CAN BE USED TO GIVE SOMEONE SCALES OR FEATHERS.



AS FOR WHY WE'VE YET TO SEE IT USED IN SUCH A MANNER, I'LL LET TEDD ANSWER THAT



HAVE YOU EVER TRIED BEING COVERED IN SCALES OR HAVING FEATHERS STICKING OUT OF YOU? IT'S NOT COMFORTABLE!

YOU COULD PROBABLY GET USED TO IT BUT WHY BOTHER?

SOFT



THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, OF COURSE IS "LIZARDS ARE COOL"

HE'S NOT WRONG ABOUT THIS FEELING WEIRD, THOUGH. YEESH







..SO IN SHORT THIS  
MOVIE STINKS.

FIGURATIVELY OF COURSE  
LITERALLY WOULD BE ABSURD.

BEFORE WE GO I'VE  
MENTIONED HAVING A GIRL-  
FRIEND SARAH. MANY TIMES  
IN PREVIOUS REVIEWS.

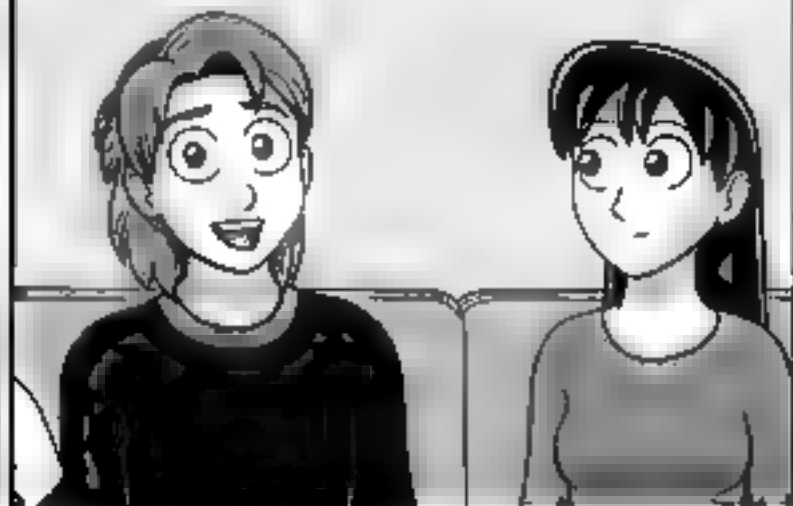


I FIGURE MY SUDDENLY NOT  
MENTIONING HER MIGHT START  
RUMORS, SO I WANT TO JUST  
GET THE TRUTH OUT THERE

THE TWO  
OF US DID  
RECENTLY  
BREAK UP



DON'T FEEL BAD FOR US, THOUGH!  
WE'RE STILL FRIENDS, AND OUR BREAKING  
UP WAS A MUTUAL DECISION.



**LIKE HELL IT WAS!**



SARAH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

I KNOW ALL ABOUT YSOLDA YOU BASTARD!

I KEEP TELLING YOU SHE'S A VIDEO GAME CHARACTER, AND SHE ONLY LIKED ME FOR MY MAMMOTH TUSK!

WHY YOU VULGAR.

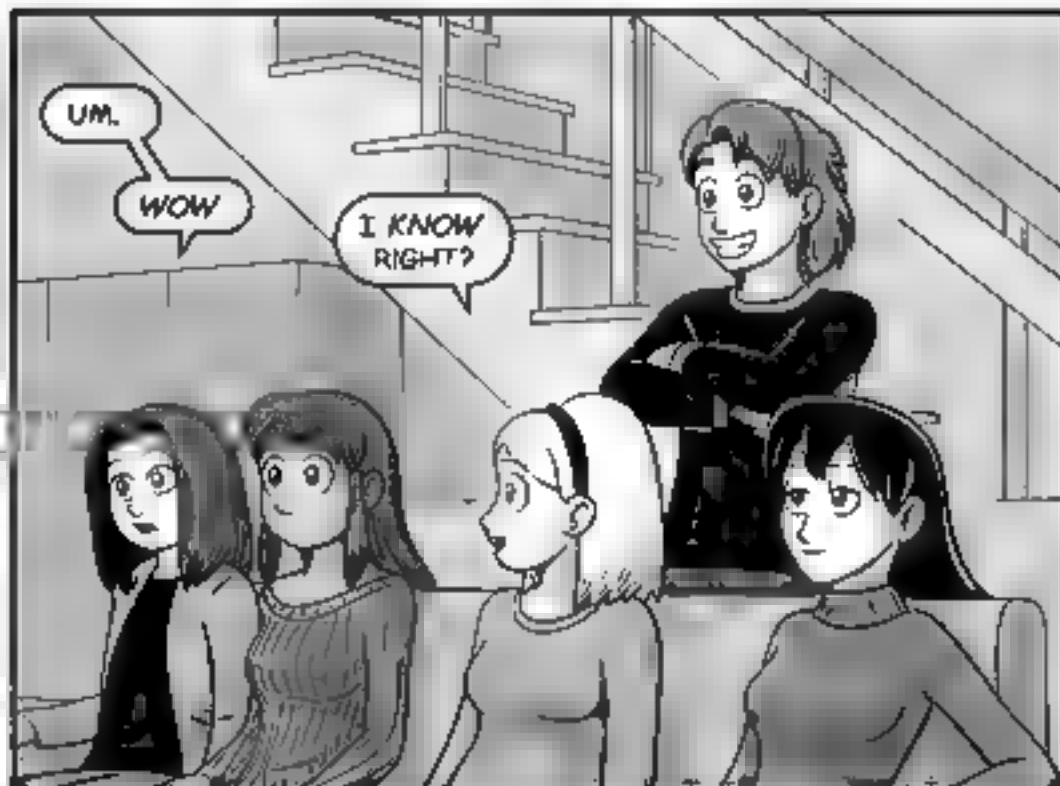
DESPICABLE...

WHAT? WAIT! THAT WASN'T A EUPHEMISM!

RRRRRAAAAA

BOOM

[ But seriously,  
we did break up,  
it was a mutual  
decision, and we  
are still friends.  
How about that? ]



EVERYTHING REALLY IS FINE. GRACE  
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY

ESPECIALLY  
NOT ABOUT  
YOU AND  
TEDD OF ALL  
COUPLES.

ANYWAY IT  
WAS FUN  
TO MAKE

NOT THAT I THINK WE  
NEEDED TO DO THAT BIT IT  
WAS JUST SOMETHING FUN  
SARAH THOUGHT OF

OUR SHOW'S WAY  
TOO SMALL TO START  
RUMORS AND STUFF

THAT DOESN'T STOP  
SOME PEOPLE

HOW MANY PEOPLE WATCH  
YOUR SHOW ANYWAY?

I DUNNO. NOT MANY  
WHEN YOU CONSIDER HOW  
BIG THE WORLD IS.

LAST I CHECKED I *THINK*  
WE HAD A LITTLE OVER A  
THOUSAND SUBSCRIBERS?

**ONE THOUSAND?!**

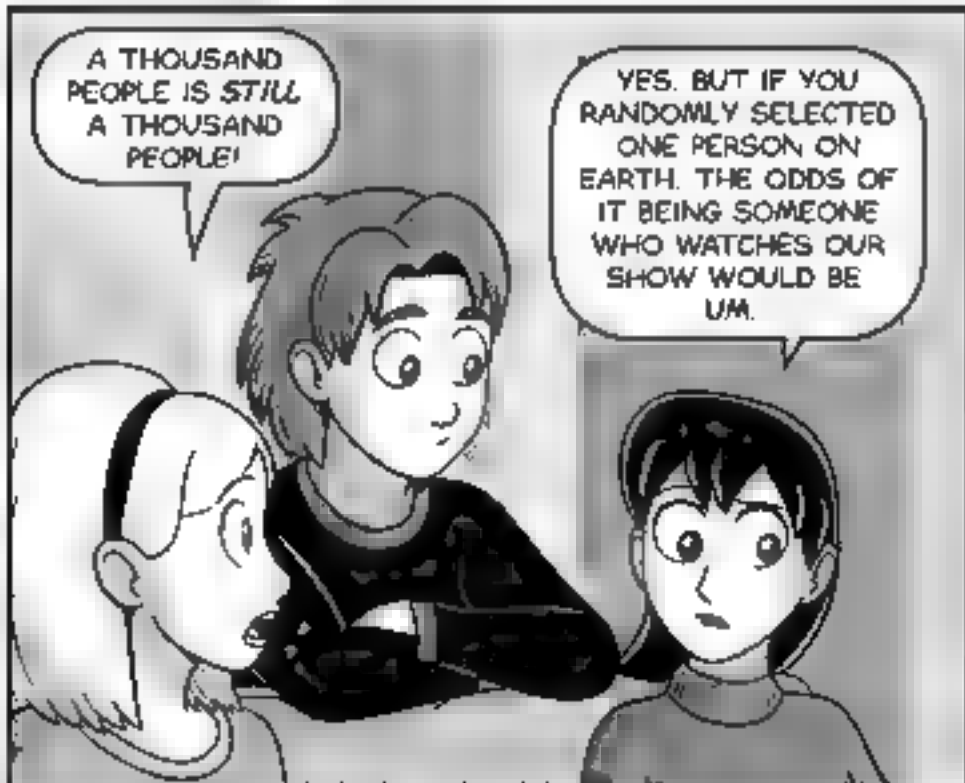
THAT'S  
WOW THAT'S  
IMPRESSIVE

I HAVE  
RETROACTIVE  
STAGE FRIGHT



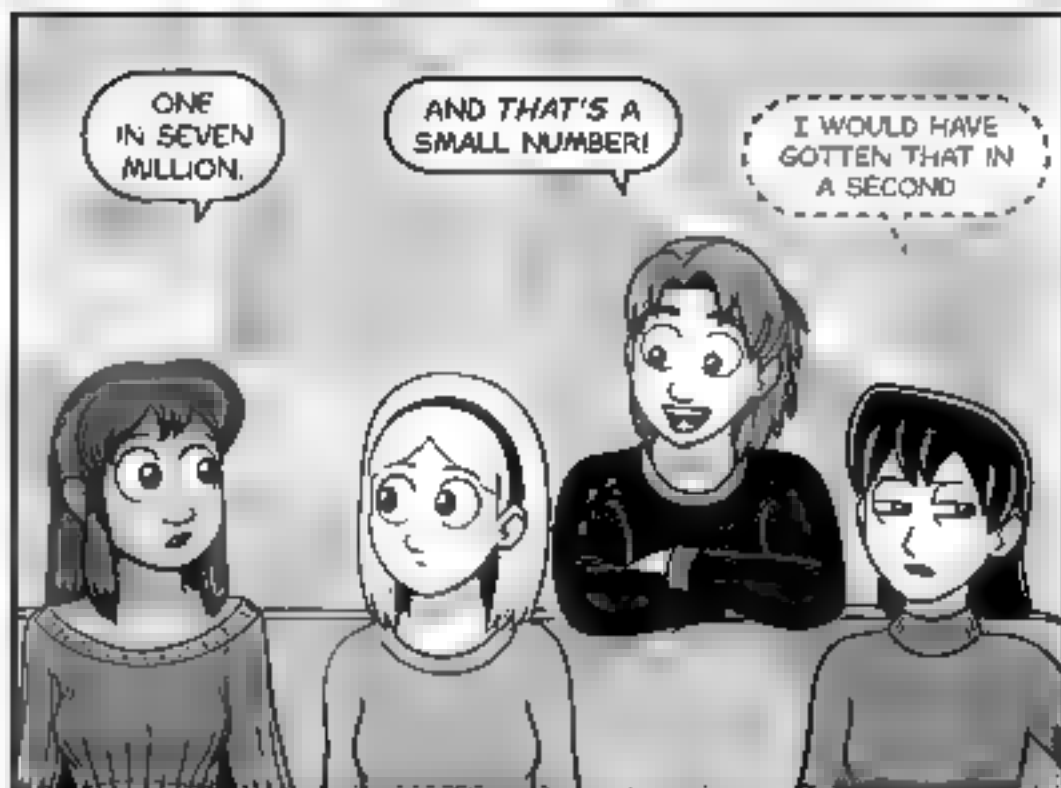
IT'S NOT THAT MANY PEOPLE.

IT MIGHT SOUND LIKE IT IS BUT THERE ARE OVER SEVEN BILLION PEOPLE ON THE PLANET



A THOUSAND PEOPLE IS STILL A THOUSAND PEOPLE!

YES. BUT IF YOU RANDOMLY SELECTED ONE PERSON ON EARTH. THE ODDS OF IT BEING SOMEONE WHO WATCHES OUR SHOW WOULD BE UM.



ONE IN SEVEN MILLION.

AND THAT'S A SMALL NUMBER!

I WOULD HAVE GOTTEN THAT IN A SECOND



FIRST OF ALL, YOU HAVE A THOUSAND SUBSCRIBERS. ANY NUMBER OF PEOPLE COULD BE WATCHING YOUR SHOW WITHOUT SUBSCRIBING I WATCH IT AND I DON'T EVEN HAVE AN ACCOUNT TO SUBSCRIBE WITH.



SECONDLY THOSE SUBSCRIBERS AREN'T EVENLY DISTRIBUTED WORLDWIDE I'M BETTING A LOT OF THEM ARE FROM AROUND HERE.

MANY OF THEM COULD EASILY BE OUR CLASSMATES.



I HAVE RETROACTIVE STAGE FRIGHT



MAN. THAT  
CHICK IS CRAZ-OW  
IT WAS STAGED.



THAT SARAH GIRL S  
GOTTA BE PRETTY  
COOL TO GO ALONG  
WITH THAT BIT



DUDE SHE DIDN'T  
JUST "GO ALONG" WITH IT  
THE DESCRIPTION SAYS IT  
WAS HER IDEA!



I GUESS THIS MEANS THAT  
ELLIOT GUY IS AVAILABLE

NOT THAT I'M  
INTERESTED IN  
SOME FUNNY  
ATHLETIC MINOR  
CELEBRITY GUY  
WHO'S OPENLY  
SENSITIVE IN HIS  
MOVIE REVIEWS.



HOW IS IT POSSIBLE  
TO BE SO BUDDY-BUDDY  
AFTER BREAKING UP?

UNLESS.  
WHAT IF IT WAS  
BECAUSE HE  
REALIZED.



IF ELLIOT'S  
SINGLE NOW, THEN  
T'S ONLY A MATTER  
OF TIME UNTIL HE  
AND SUSAN..

DAMMIT  
I GOTTA  
MAKE MY  
MOVE



ELLIOT YOU  
HANDSOME IDIOT!

DO YOU  
HAVE ANY IDEA  
WHAT THIS WILL  
UNLEASH?!



I ADMIT T'S STRANGE  
TO CONSIDER HOW MANY  
PEOPLE MIGHT WATCH  
OUR REVIEW SHOW...

BUT I STILL  
DON'T UNDERSTAND  
THIS "RETROACTIVE  
STAGE FRIGHT"  
BUSINESS.

OF COURSE YOU DON'T YOU  
TAKE OVER ASSEMBLIES IF YOU  
DON'T LIKE WHAT'S BEING SAID.

ARE YOU CONCERNED  
PEOPLE WILL BE  
CRITICAL OF YOUR  
PERFORMANCE? YOU  
SHOULDN'T BE YOU  
WERE VERY  
CONVINCING.

THANKS. NO. IT'S  
JUST... I DUNNO IT'S  
A LOT OF EYES TO  
HAVE ON ME.

I DON'T WANT THE  
MEAN GIRLS MAKING  
FUN OF ME. EITHER.

MEAN GIRLS? WHAT MEAN GIRLS?  
WHO'S BEEN MEAN TO YOU?

I GUESS IT'S NOT  
SURPRISING THEY HAVEN'T  
GIVEN YOU TROUBLE

THEY'RE NOT MEAN TO ME  
SPECIFICALLY THEY'RE JUST,  
YOU KNOW JERKS. I DON'T  
WANT THEM, OR JERKS IN  
GENERAL, MAKING FUN OF ME

I THINK THAT'S HER

HEY SARAH!

WHAT? DON'T

OH COME ON.

EEP

UH... HI. THAT ..  
COUGH THROWING  
WAS PRETTY COOL

YOU WERE ALL  
LIKE "RARI FUS RO  
COUGH!" HEH.

OH! JH  
THANKS.

SO, YOU  
AH. PLAY  
ELDER SCROLL  
GAMES?

I... MIGHT HAVE  
SPENT AN EMBARRASSING  
NUMBER OF HOURS PLAYING  
THEM. YEAH.

GAMER GIRL.  
COOL

ANYWAY BELL'S GONNA RING SOON. SO..



OH UH. I'M CECIL.

YES! YES WE ARE.

I KNOW WE'RE  
IN THE SAME  
ART CLASS.



SEE YOU IN ART!

JH, SURE!  
YEAH.



"SEE YOU  
IN ART"?  
SERIOUSLY?

I'M NOT ASKING  
HER OUT RIGHT NOW! SHE  
ONLY JUST BROKE UP WITH  
HER BOYFRIEND




YOU GET THAT YOU'RE GONNA  
HAVE COMPETITION, RIGHT?

THAT WAS  
WEIRD


CO-HOST OF THE  
SHOW STANDING RIGHT  
HERE WHAT THE HELL..



A black and white comic panel showing two girls. The girl on the left has short blonde hair and a headband. The girl on the right has long dark hair. They are both looking at each other.

DON'T FEEL BAD  
CECIL KNOWS ME  
FROM ART CLASS.  
THAT'S ALL

I DON'T FEEL  
BAD. JUST..  
CONFUSED.

A black and white comic panel showing a close-up of the girl with long dark hair. She has a surprised or thoughtful expression.


PEOPLE IN THE  
VIDEO STORE HAVE  
APPROACHED ME  
ABOUT THE SHOW  
QUITE REGULARLY  
BUT IT'S BEEN  
RARE AT SCHOOL

IF TEDD'S RIGHT  
ABOUT MANY OF  
OUR CLASSMATES  
WATCHING IT, IT  
SEEMS LIKE IT  
SHOULD BE MORE  
COMMON.

A black and white comic panel showing the two girls from the first panel. They are standing and talking.


I DUNNO.  
MAYBE THEY  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO  
SAY?

OR MAYBE  
THEY JUST DON'T  
LIKE ME. NOT  
THAT I CARE

A black and white comic panel showing the two girls. The girl with long dark hair is speaking.

YOU SHOULDN'T  
JUST ASSUME PEOPLE  
DON'T LIKE YOU

ALL YOU'VE DONE ON THE SHOW  
IS YELL AND THROW A COUCH AND  
ALREADY PEOPLE LIKE YOU MORE


A black and white comic panel showing a close-up of the girl with short blonde hair. She is speaking.

NO THEY DON'T! LIKE I  
SAID CECIL KNOWS ME  
AND THAT OTHER GUY  
WAS HIS FRIEND THAT'S  
ONLY TWO PEOPLE

IT'S NOT LIKE  
EVERYBODY SUDDENLY  
LIKES ME NOW

A black and white comic panel showing three girls. The girl with long dark hair is in the middle, talking to the other two.

YOU HAVE A  
GOOD HEART

A black and white comic panel showing the two girls. The girl with short blonde hair is speaking.

OKAY NO, THAT  
WAS CLEARLY  
JUST A RANDOM  
CRAZY PERSON.





**BRRINNNNG!**

CRAP! LET'S  
GET GOING.

I DON'T SUPPOSE I  
COULD GET AWAY WITH  
SPENDING THE REST OF  
THE DAY TRANSFORMED  
AND ANONYMOUS.

I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU  
BEFORE. ARE YOU SUPPOSED  
TO BE IN MY CLASS?

YES.

SOUNDS  
LEGIT

YOU HAVE  
STRANGELY  
SELECTIVE  
SHYNESS.

IT'S PRETTY SIMPLE. ACTUALLY I  
DON'T LIKE BEING THE CENTER OF  
ATTENTION OR TALKING ABOUT  
MYSELF WITH STRANGERS.

THEN IT'S FINE. YEAH. PEOPLE KNOW YOU  
EXIST. BUT YOU'RE NOT THE CENTER OF  
ATTENTION. YOU'RE JUST THAT GUY WHO  
DOES A BUNCH OF WEIRD-  
BUT-GOOD THINGS.

I GUESS THAT'S  
NOT A BAD THING.

NOT AT ALL! HECK, THAT WALL RUN TO  
GET THE PHONE BACK MIGHT'VE BEEN A  
BIT NUTS. BUT I DOUBT IT'LL RESULT IN  
YOU GETTING ANY MORE ATTENTION

THANK  
YOU

NO BIGGIE!  
SEE YOU  
AROUND!





SO YOU'RE INTO COMICS! MARVEL OR DC?

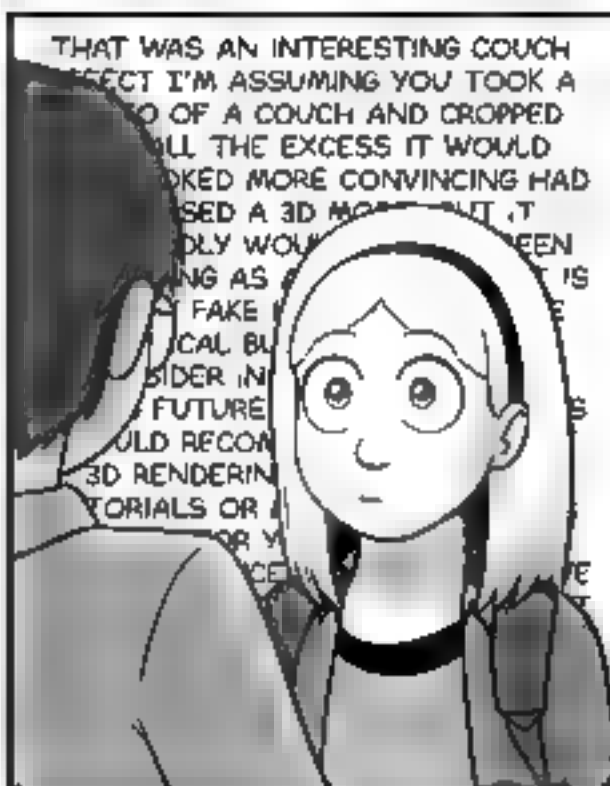
I, UH, MOSTLY LIKE WEB COMICS.

SO MARVEL!



I MEAN, IT'S COOL IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SHARE IT

IT'S JUST A FRIEND CODE FOR VIDEO GAMES. NO BIGGIE



THAT WAS AN INTERESTING COUCH EFFECT I'M ASSUMING YOU TOOK A PHOTO OF A COUCH AND CROPPED ALL THE EXCESS IT WOULD HAVE LOOKED MORE CONVINCING HAD I USED A 3D MODEL BUT IT ONLY WOULD HAVE BEEN AS GOOD AS A FAKE. I'M A LITTLE BIT OF A TECHNICAL BUT CONSIDER IN THE FUTURE I WOULD RECOMMEND 3D RENDERING TUTORIALS OR A VIDEO FOR YOUR SPACE



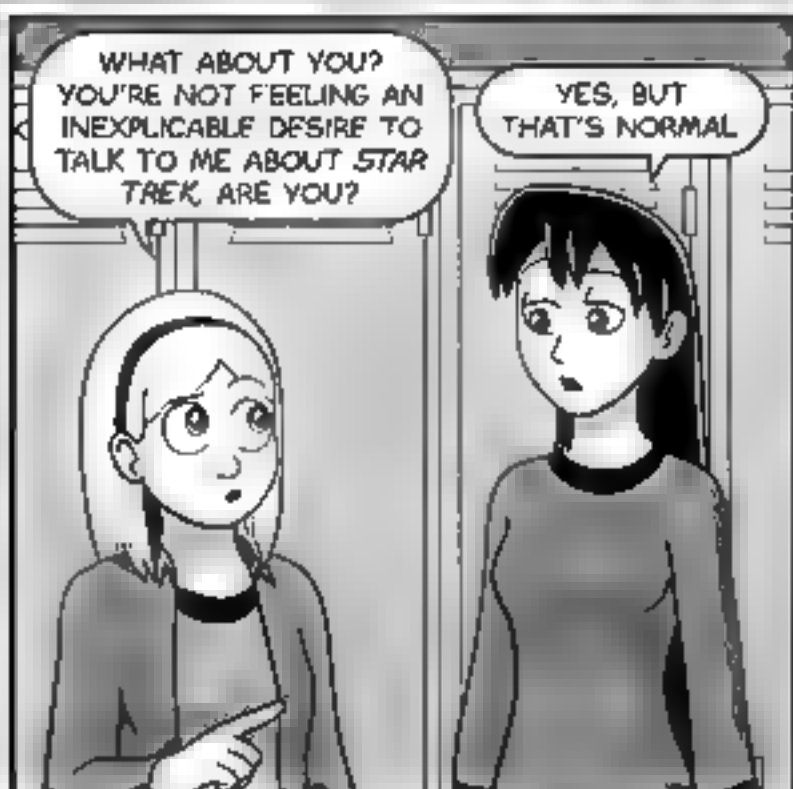
I LIKE IT A LOT BUT THE LEVELING SYSTEM MAKES ME DO WEIRD THINGS. IT'S LIKE I WANT TO GET BETTER AT BLOCKING. SO THE LEGENDARY HERO OF THE LAND WINDS UP JUST STANDING AROUND WHILE CRABS THROW THEMSELVES AT HER SHIELD

WELL, IT IS MORE REALISTIC THAT WAY



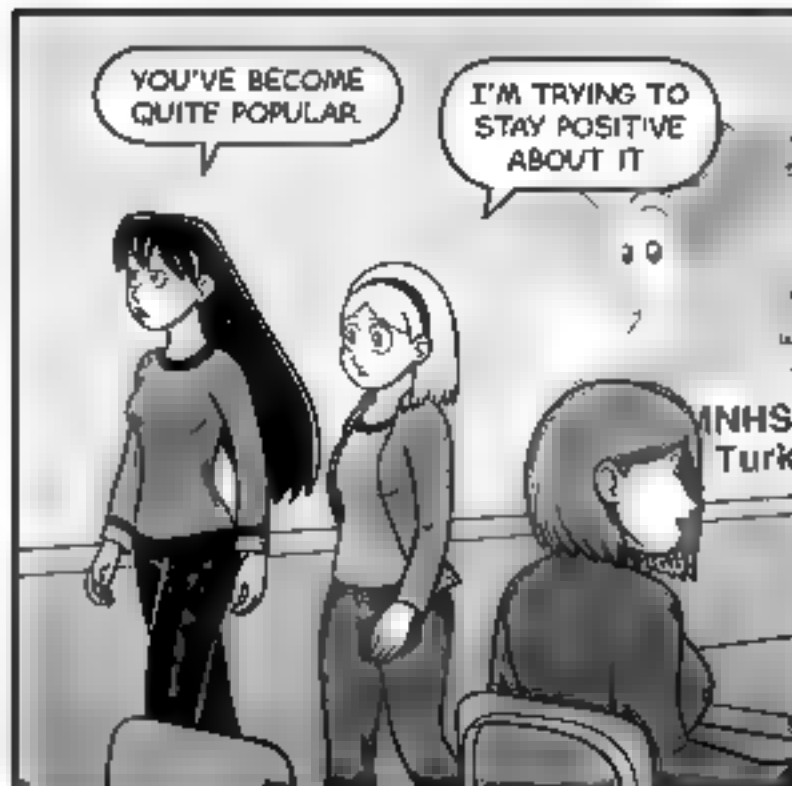
BOYS HAVE BEEN APPROACHING ME ALL DAY! IT'S LIKE I'VE GAINED SOME MAGIC POWER THAT MAKES PEOPLE WANT TO TALK ABOUT GEEKY STUFF WITH ME.

JH-HUH.



WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU'RE NOT FEELING AN INEXPLICABLE DESIRE TO TALK TO ME ABOUT STAR TREK, ARE YOU?

YES, BUT THAT'S NORMAL



In this dystopian future world gone mad known as the second semester of their senior year of high school, Susan and Sarah do not have the same lunch period as Elliot and Tedd. They do, however, have the same lunch period..



As a cat (ai-na)

'SUP NERDS!

CLOMP



HELLO CATALINA.

WHY DON'T YOU EVER DO THAT TO SUSAN?

I WANT TO LIVE



ANYWAY I'M SUPER PROUD OF HOW YOU HANDLED BREAKING UP WITH ELLIOT! YOU'RE A COOL GUY

I... WHAT? YOU MEAN THE COUCH THROWING?



COUCH THROWING? SOMEONE THREW A COUCH?

IN THE REVIEW VIDEO I'M IN.

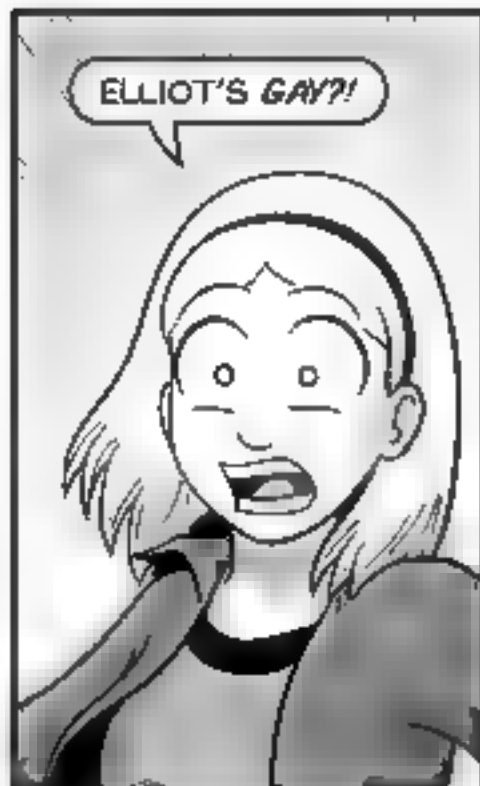
I STILL HAVEN'T SEEN THAT WHO THREW A COUCH?



NO ONE ACTUALLY-- WHY ARE YOU PROUD?

BECAUSE YOU STAYED FRIENDS WITH ELLIOT AFTER HE REALIZED HE WAS GAY!







"I CANNOT HELP BUT CONCLUDE THAT THE REASON FOR THIS AMICABLE BREAKUP WAS THAT ELLIOT DUNKEL HAS RECENTLY REALIZED THAT HE IS GAY"

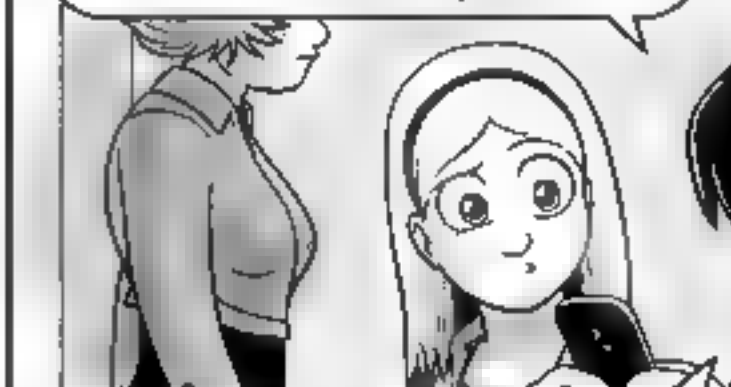


"IT IS EXTREMELY RARE FOR COUPLES WHO HAVE BROKEN UP TO REMAIN FRIENDS UNLESS THERE EXISTS A SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE THAT EITHER FORCES THEM TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER, OR IF THE BREAKUP ITSELF WAS FOR REASONS BEYOND EITHER OF THEIR CONTROL."



"IN THIS INSTANCE I ASSERT THE LATTER. ELLIOT'S HOMOSEXUALITY WOULD BE AN IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCE BUT NOT ONE WORTHY OF MALICE FROM ONE WHO'S UNDERSTANDING AND COMPASSIONATE."

"WHAT'S MORE WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT NOT ALL YOUNG HETEROSEXUAL MALES BEHAVE IN A STEREOTYPICALLY MALE MANNER, THE TRUTH IS THAT MOST DO EXHIBIT CERTAIN QUALITIES."



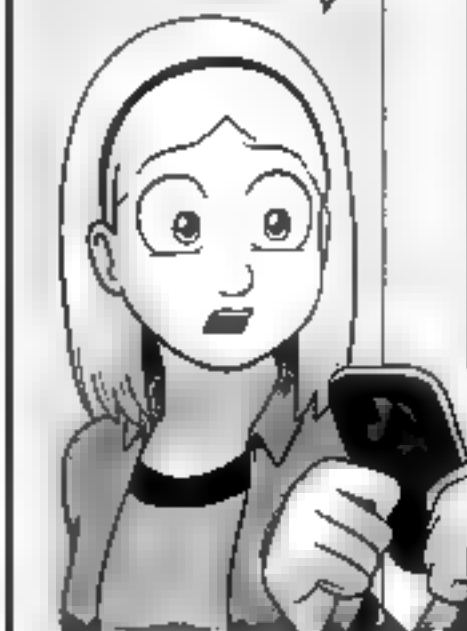
"IN PREVIOUS REVIEWS, ELLIOT HAS NOT HE HAS EXHIBITED QUALITIES THAT DO NOT DEFINITELY SHOW HIM TO BE HOMOSEXUAL, BUT DO STRONGLY SUGGEST IT IN LIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS BREAKUP."

"IT'S MOST LIKELY HE HAS CHOSEN NOT TO DIVULGE THIS INFORMATION GIVEN THE JUDGMENTAL WORLD WE LIVE IN."

"HIS EX-GIRLFRIEND IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR STAYING BY HIS SIDE. SHE HAS A GOOD HEART"



OH. MY GOD.



SOMEONE ACTUALLY LEFT A COMMENT LIKE THAT ON AN INTERNET VIDEO?!



I CAN'T FIND A SINGLE SPELLING OR PUNCTUATION ERROR.



THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!





"THIS CONCLUSION THAT ELLIOT IS GAY IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTIONS AND PREJUDICES OF THE ORIGINAL COMMENTATOR AND SHOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED AS FACT"

"IT IS TRUE THAT MOST YOUNG MEN AREN'T VERY SENSITIVE AND ARE AWFUL. BUT WE SHOULDN'T JUST ASSUME THE WELCOME EXCEPTIONS ARE GAY IT'S FINE IF THEY ARE BUT JUST ASSUMING THEY ARE IS DUMB."

"ASSUMING ELLIOT ACTUALLY IS GAY IT IS NO ONE'S BUSINESS BUT HIS OWN. SPREADING RUMORS LIKE THIS IS HORRIBLE"

WHOEVER THIS MONGOOSE IS. I'M SENDING THEM A THANK YOU MESSAGE LATER.

I NEED TO HELP STOP THIS RUMOR. TOO! I'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT HOW AWESOME SARAH IS ALL MORNING!

EITHER ELLIOT'S STRAIGHT AND I'VE BEEN HELPING SPREAD A LIE..

OR HE IS GAY, AND I HELPED OUT HIM! I'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING!

UNFORTUNATELY I DON'T THINK THERE'S MUCH WE CAN DO BEYOND WHAT THE MONGOOSE IS ALREADY DOING.

WE CAN MAKE COUNTERARGUMENTS WHEN ABLE. BUT MANY ARE JUST GOING TO BELIEVE WHAT THEY WANT TO BELIEVE

I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING!

I'LL COME UP WITH AN ARGUMENT SO AIRTIGHT THAT





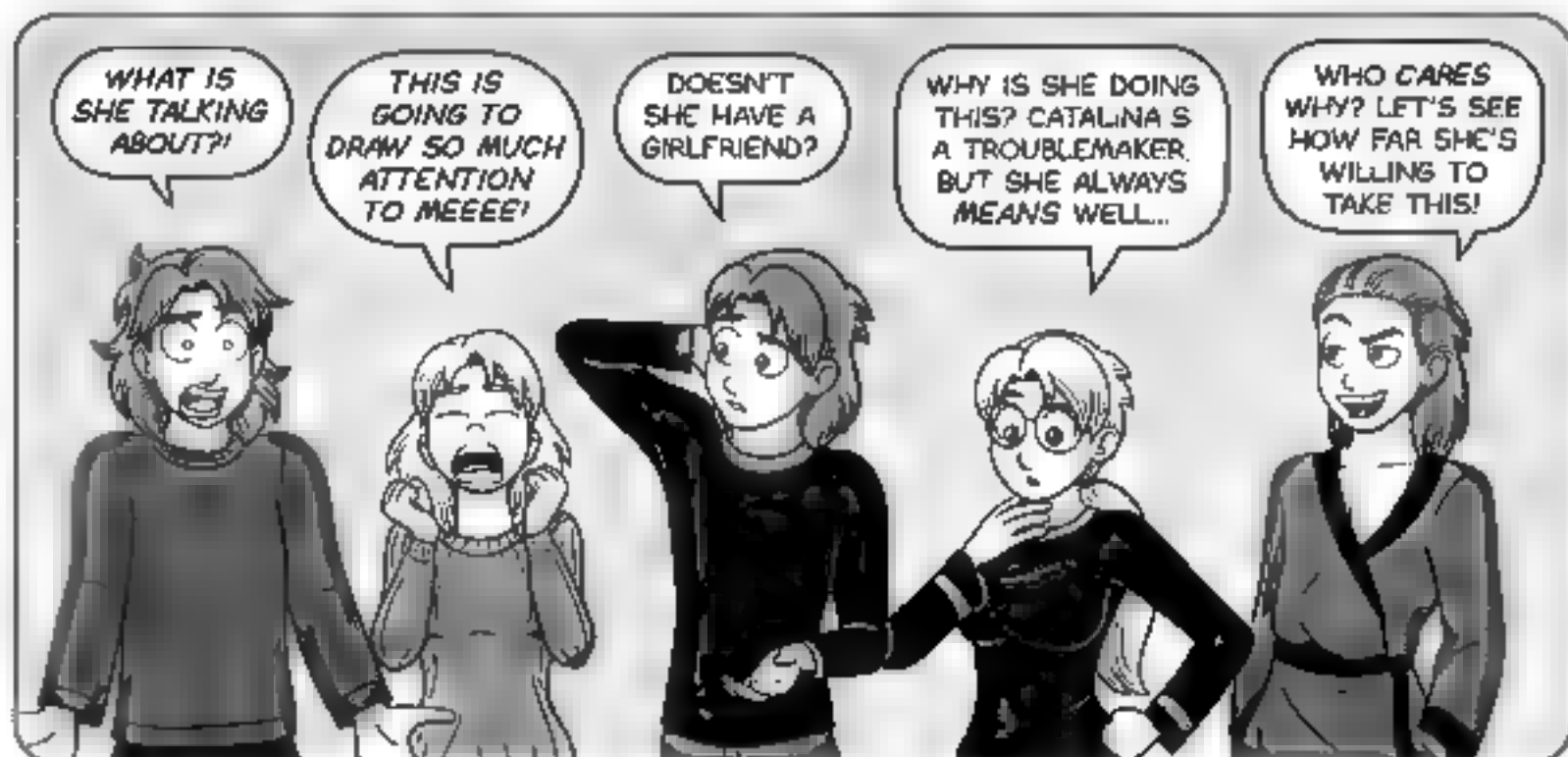


**THUMP**





Meanwhile, n a visual representation of Elliot's mind











I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND! I CAN'T JUST RUN AROUND KISSING PEOPLE!



I MUST COME UP WITH THE MOST ULTIMATE APOLOGY PLAN EVER!

JUST BE HONEST AND EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED



HEY

HEY SO UH... DO YOU KNOW WHY I'M GAY NOW?

One quick comment reading later



IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY TEDD'S DAD WROTE THAT

NO WAY THE LOGIC ISN'T NEARLY CONVOLUTED ENOUGH.



WE DON'T KNOW WHO WROTE IT

WHOEVER IT IS, AT LEAST THEY HAD NOTHING BUT GOOD THINGS TO SAY ABOUT SARAH.

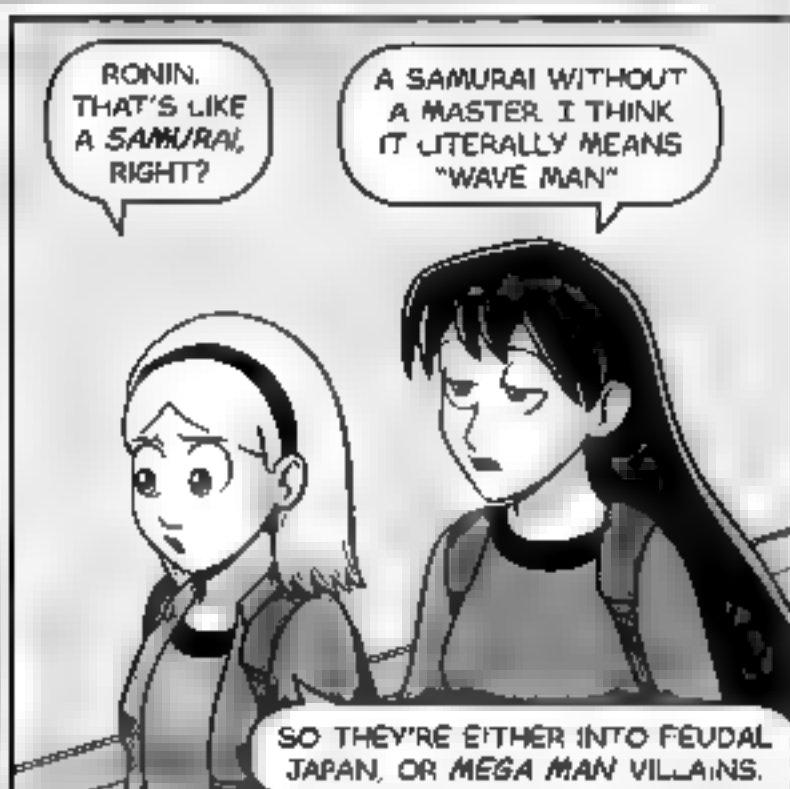


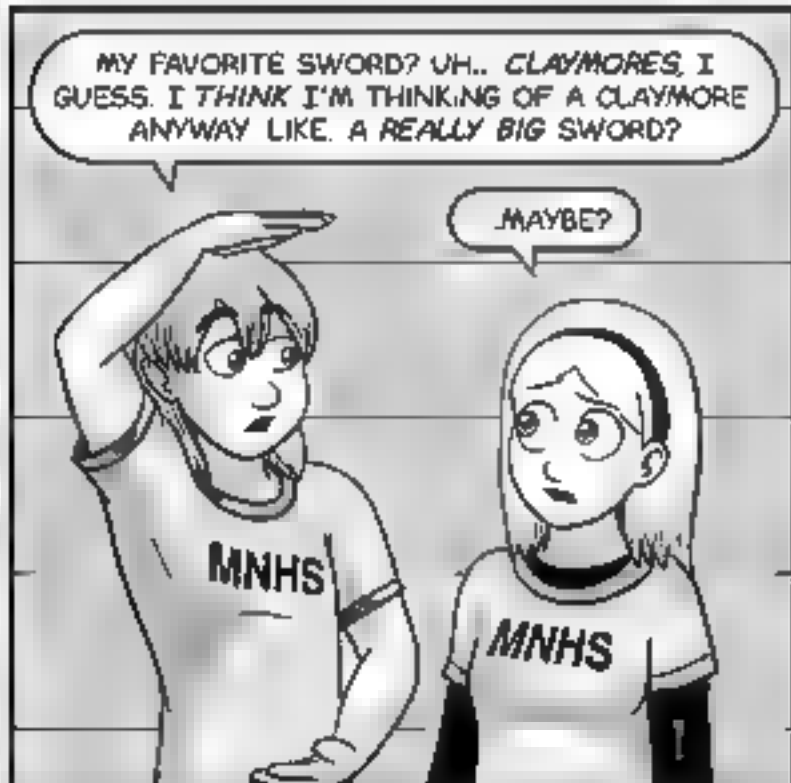
HEH. YEAH. IT'S FUNNY THAT THEY GOT "UNDERSTANDING AND COMPASSIONATE" FROM ME THROWING A COUCH. BUT



WAIT A MINUTE

A little later (as opposed to earlier or much later)





A few minutes before the final class of the day.

WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH ME?



FEELING JEALOUS. THAT I WAS PREPARED FOR. IT'S AN INSTINCTUAL REACTION DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE ME TO NOT LET OTHER WOMEN BE WITH THE PERSON WHOM I'M PHYSICALLY ATTRACTED TO.

HOWEVER FOOLISH, IT'S PERFECTLY LOGICAL.



BUT WHY DID I FIND CATALINA AND ELLIOT KISSING SEXY?!



A FEMALE FRIEND WHO ONCE ASKED ME OUT KISSES A MALE FRIEND I'M ATTRACTED TO. AND I THINK IT'S SEXY



WHERE'S THE DAMN LOGIC?!

I GUESS THE LOGIC IS THAT I'M APPARENTLY SOME SORT OF WEIRD PERVERT



YET ANOTHER REASON FOR PEOPLE TO NOT LIKE ME

PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

EH?!



SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN  
TO STARTLE YOU



HOW DID YOU  
KNOW WHAT I  
WAS THINKING?



I DIDN'T  
GUESS I HAD  
GOOD TIMING.



I'M AFRAID I OVERHEARD  
YOU TALKING WITH YOUR  
FRIEND THIS MORNING.



I FIGURED I SHOULDN'T  
JUMP INTO A PRIVATE  
CONVERSATION BUT YOU  
LOOKED A LITTLE DOWN  
JUST NOW SO... Y'KNOW

OH SO.. JH...



AS I WAS SAYING,  
PEOPLE DO LIKE YOU  
BUT YOUR INTELLIGENCE  
AND WILLINGNESS TO  
FIERCELY STAND UP  
FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE  
IN IS POTENTIALLY  
INTIMIDATING.



I FIGURE THAT'S  
WHY YOU DON'T GET  
APPROACHED MUCH.

SO YOU'RE  
SAYING I'M  
LIKEABLE.  
BUT SCARY

WELL, THERE ARE  
THOSE WHO CALL YOU  
"THE HAMMER QUEEN" ..



..AND WHEN YOU DIDN'T HESITATE TO YELL AT THE PRINCIPAL OVER THOSE SEXIST UNIFORMS DURING AN ASSEMBLY WELL... THAT WAS YOUR *FIRST IMPRESSION* ON MUCH OF THE SCHOOL. REALLY

YOU'RE KIND OF A BADASS

I'M SORRY, I'VE SEEN YOU IN CLASS BEFORE, BUT

I'M TOM. DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT GREAT WITH NAMES, EITHER.

HECK, I MOSTLY REMEMBER YOUR NAME THANKS TO YOUR SHOW

YOU WATCH IT THEN.

WELL, NOT ALL THE TIME MOSTLY WHEN I KNOW YOU'LL BE TALKING ABOUT STAR TREK.

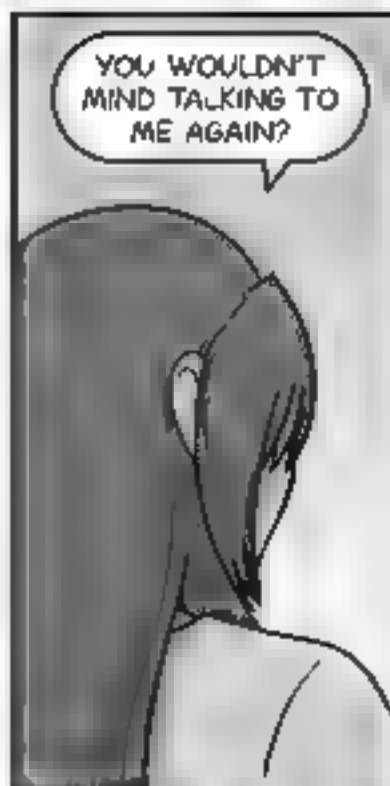
THAT'S EVERY EPISODE

SO YOU REALLY LIKE STAR TREK

WHEN YOU'RE ACTUALLY SUPPOSED TO BE TALKING ABOUT STAR TREK THEN.

FAVORITE SERIES: DEEP SPACE NINE FAVORITE EPISODE "TRIALS AND TRIBBLE-ACTIONS" FAVORITE CHARACTER: ELIM GARAK





HMMM...

YEAH, I CAN  
SEE YOU KISSING  
DUDES.

NOT THAT  
THAT'S SAYING MUCH  
AT THE MOMENT

I MEANT IN  
GENERAL.

YOU AND TEDD  
HAVING A MIDNIGHT  
STROLL ON THE  
BEACH..

AND THEN.

MAGIC.

BUT REALLY IT'S ME SHIFTED  
TO LOOK LIKE YOU BECAUSE  
REALLY IT'S JUST ME AND TEDD  
HAVING FUN ON THE BEACH.





THAT'S..  
JM.

ELLIOT  
SHOULD NOT  
BE ADORABLE!



A. ANYWAY  
UH... I HEAR YOU  
HAD A GAY OLD  
TIME TODAY



OH. YEAH. HOW  
MUCH DID TEDD  
TELL YOU?



I JUST  
CONFIRMED  
YOU'D HEARD  
ABOUT THE  
RUMOR.

GRACE TOLD  
US ABOUT IT  
AT LUNCH.



GRACE - WAIT I  
ASSUMED TEDD  
TOLD YOU. HOW DID  
YOU HEAR ABOUT IT  
DURING SCHOOL?

RHODA TOLD  
ME ABOUT THE  
COMMENTS.

WHICH IS A LITTLE WEIRD, NOW  
THAT I THINK ABOUT IT SHE'S TOLD  
ME SHE NEVER READS THOSE.



WELL, THERE  
HAVE BEEN  
DEVELOPMENTS  
SINCE THEN..

Some recappery up to the point of kissing later



WOW CATALINA  
DOESN'T DO  
THINGS HALFWAY,  
DOES SHE?

I SHOULD  
PROBABLY BE MORE  
UPSET WITH HER.  
BUT.. EHEH.



WAIT DOESN'T CATALINA  
HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?

YES. YES  
SHE DOES.



ANYWAY I DIDN'T GO ALONG WITH IT, AND I BASICALLY JUST SAID "I'M NOT GAY, BUT IT'S FINE IF PEOPLE THINK I AM."

REALLY

YEAH I DON'T CARE IF SOME PEOPLE THINK I'M GAY

UM, NOT THAT I'M MAKING LIGHT OF WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH. OR.

YOUR SITUATION IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MINE

FOR ONE, YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY GAY FOR TWO NONE OF YOUR FRIENDS WOULD ABANDON YOU IF YOU WERE

AND FOR THREE YOU'RE THE GUY WHO BEATS UP BULLIES. YOU'RE NOT LIKELY TO GET PICKED ON.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND PEOPLE PICK ON YOU?

THEY USED TO I WAS HALF A FOOT SHORTER WITH NO MUSCLE AND WASN'T FRIENDS WITH NANASE BACK THEN.

OKAY BUT WHY WOULD PEOPLE EVEN CARE THAT YOU'RE GAY IN THE FIRST PLACE?

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION.

THE FACT THAT I'VE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE CHEERLEADRA AND KICKED A FIRE DUDE INTO A RIVER PROBABLY HELPS TOO.



THIS IS REALLY A  
SORE SPOT FOR YOU  
ISN'T IT?

I TRY NOT TO LOSE  
MY TEMPER. BUT IT  
JUST INFURIATES  
ME YOU KNOW?

THERE'S MORE  
TO IT THAN JUST  
NOT LIKING IT,  
ISN'T THERE?

DOES THERE  
NEED TO BE? PEOPLE  
HURTING OTHERS FOR  
NO GOOD REASON  
PISSES ME OFF

AND WITH GOOD  
REASON, BUT MY GUT SAYS  
THERE'S MORE TO IT

OKAY YEAH, I MIGHT'VE  
LOST A FRIEND OVER  
SOMETHING LIKE THAT

YOU LOST A  
FRIEND? WHO?

IT DOESN'T MATTER  
IT WAS BEFORE WE MET  
AND HE'S AN ASS. I HAVE  
BETTER FRIENDS NOW

NOW LET'S  
PLAY SOME GAMES  
BEFORE I NEED ALL  
THE HUGS.

Online (and later, as will soon be obvious)

OKAY THIS ISN'T A BIG DEAL YOU'RE SITTING AT YOUR COMPUTER AND HOPING AN ATTRACTIVE MAN LOGS IN SO YOU CAN CHAT

THIS IS NOT SIGNIFICANT



'SUP SUSAN!

NOT THE HANDSOME MAN I WAS WAITING FOR BUT SURE



(See? Obvious Justin makes later obvious.)

WHY IS YOUR AVATAR YOU?

SO TOM KNOWS IT'S ME



I'M ME I MAY AS WELL REPRESENT ME WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO

I'M A MONSTER TRAINER! THE VERY BEST, YOU MIGHT SAY

I WOULD THINK THAT WOULD INVOLVE MORE PADDING.



SO HOW'RE YOU DOING? I HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY WITH ELLIOT AND CATALINA.

IT DIDN'T UPSET YOU, DID IT?

OH, RIGHT I ADMITTED TO HIM THAT I FIND ELLIOT ATTRACTIVE GOOD JOB, SUSAN



OH, THAT YEAH. THAT WAS INTERESTING.



NOT IN ANY WAY YOU'RE THINKING OF

BUT IT DID UPSET YOU?



REALLY FANTASTIC WORK.

IT'S COMPLICATED. AND WEIRD I DON'T WANT TO TYPE ABOUT IT

IT'S FINE IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TYPE ABOUT IT BUT IT'S ALSO OKAY IF YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SEXY

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT

I'M YOUR GAY MALE FRIEND! IF HOLLYWOOD HAS TAUGHT US ANYTHING, IT'S THAT I'M NATURALLY INSIGHTFUL

I'M SERIOUS. IF YOU CAN ACTUALLY THINK OF A REASON WHY I FELT THAT WAY I WANT TO KNOW T

I HAVE THREE REASONS! WELL, THREE FACTS THAT ADD UP TO ONE REASON. I GUESS.

WHICH ARE?

ONE, YOU'RE ATTRACTED TO ELLIOT TWO, CATALINA ONCE ASKED YOU OUT AND WHILE YOU'RE NOT PHYSICALLY ATTRACTED TO HER, YOU TOLD ME YOU WISHED YOU COULD HAVE SAID YES.

IT'S POSSIBLE I SHARE TOO MUCH WITH YOU

AND THREE, YOU DON'T LIKE TO BE TOUCHED, AND AREN'T REALLY COMFORTABLE WITH THE IDEA OF A PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP YET

INSIGHTFUL

I NEVER TOLD YOU THAT SECOND PART

HOW DO THOSE  
FACTS ADD UP TO A  
COHERENT REASON?

HOW DO THEY NOT? HECK. THE GUY YOU'RE  
ATTRACTED TO KISSING THE GIRL YOU WISH YOU  
COULD BE B-CURIOUS WITH WOULD BE ENOUGH.

BUT THAT'S  
INSANE I'M NOT  
EVEN IN THAT  
FANTASY HOW IS  
THAT LOGICAL?

IT ALL HAPPENING IN A WAY WHERE YOU  
COULD SAFELY OBSERVE WAS JUST A BONUS.  
IT'S AN IDEAL SORT OF FANTASY FOR YOU.

"LOGIC" HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH IT  
WELL, LOGIC LOGIC. THERE'S A SORT  
OF LOGIC TO THOSE FACTS ADDING  
UP TO SEXY

THAT'S  
MADNESS!

IT'S A JUMBLE OF  
INSTINCTS TRYING TO  
GET US TO PROCREATE  
REGARDLESS OF  
WHETHER IT'S A GOOD  
IDEA MIXING WITH  
CONSCIOUS THOUGHT  
AND AMPLIFIED BY A  
HUNDRED THANKS TO  
TEENAGE HORMONES

OF COURSE  
IT'S MADNESS.

YOU'RE  
RIGHT IT IS.

YEAH, BUT IT'S  
NOTHING TO WORRY  
ABOUT WHAT YOU  
FELT WAS PERFECTLY  
NORMAL

THANK YOU  
BRB. CHANGING  
MY AVATAR.

JUSTIN'S RIGHT IT'S  
MADNESS. AND I DON'T  
DO WHAT MAD PEOPLE  
TELL ME TO DO

NOT EVEN  
WHEN THEY'RE  
ME!



I'M NOT READY TO  
DATE ANYONE I'M  
BARELY READY TO  
BE HUGGED!

I SHOULD  
PROBABLY WORK ON  
THAT I WILL WORK  
ON THAT!



MADNESS. YOU'RE A  
PART OF ME AND I'M NOT  
GOING TO IGNORE YOU.



BUT YOU'RE NOT THE  
CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP



I AM SUSAN.

AND I AM  
THE CAPTAIN.



SHE'S BEEN  
ONLINE FOR QUITE  
SOME TIME NOW

WAITING  
FOR ME NO  
DOUBT



I AM SORRY TO  
BE LOGGED IN AS  
INVISIBLE. MAKING IT  
IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE  
THAT I'M ONLINE.  
BUT I DON'T  
ACTUALLY WANT  
TO CHAT TONIGHT

CURIOSITY  
SIMPLY GOT  
THE BETTER  
OF ME.



I WILL APOLOGIZE  
FOR MY ABSENCE  
AND THE  
CONVERSATION TO  
FOLLOW WILL BE  
ALL THE BETTER,  
FOR YOUR HEART  
WILL HAVE GROWN  
FONDER IN MY  
ABSENCE



BUT THEN,  
YOU WILL  
UNDOUBTEDLY  
APPROACH ME  
TOMORROW  
EAGER TO  
SPEAK.



STILL. I DO FEEL BAD ABOUT  
TONIGHT IT ALMOST SEEMS  
CRUEL TO MAKE YOU WAIT  
ALL ALONE LIKE THAT



WHY WOULD YOU  
LET A PIKACHU PILOT  
A SPACESHIP?!

HE'S *ELECTRIC TYPE*!  
I THOUGHT HE COULD  
HANDLE IT!





TELL ME  
SOMEONE GOT A  
PICTURE OF IT



IT'S NOT LIKE  
SHE GAVE ANYONE  
ANY WARNING. SHE  
JUST JUMPED ME



WELL, AFTER THE KISS.  
THEN! WE LIVE IN THE AGE OF  
CAMERA PHONES. SOMEBODY  
MUST'VE GOTTEN SOMETHING.



I DON'T  
KNOW  
MAYBE?

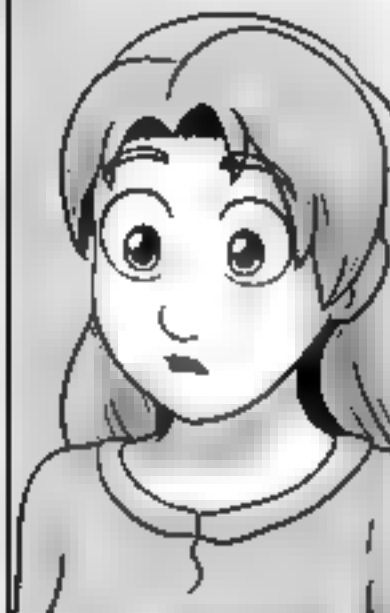


HMPH YOU'RE NO FUN. CATALINA  
SOUNDS FUN, THOUGH.



NANASE AND  
I SHOULD ASK  
HER AND HER  
GIRLFRIEND  
OUT ON A  
DOUBLE DATE

YOU KNOW WHO  
SHE'S DATING?



GIVEN THAT GRACE KNOWS?  
I'M NINETY NINE POINT  
NINE-NINE PERCENT CERTAIN  
WHO IT IS. NOT GONNA SAY  
WHO THOUGH



YOU THINK SHE'S DATING  
RHODA DON'T YOU



NNNNNOOO?



JM. RIGHT THAT'S WHY I ASK SOME PEOPLE ACT LIKE BEING GAY IS BAD AND I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY

THAT'S... COMPLICATED.

PEOPLE WILL GIVE PLENTY OF REASONS. "WHAT'S THE POINT OF IT?" "IT'S UNNATURAL." "I HAVE A MORAL OBJECTION TO CONSENTING ADULTS OF THE SAME SEX LOVING EACH OTHER."

I'VE HEARD TONS OF REASONS AND NONE OF THEM MAKE SENSE TO ME

THAT MIGHT EVEN BE OKAY IF WE'RE JUST TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE NOT LIKING SOMETHING.

PEOPLE DON'T NEED PERFECT REASONS FOR NOT LIKING THINGS FEELINGS ARE SUBJECTIVE WHATEVER

BUT WHEN PEOPLE USE THOSE REASONS AS RATIONALE FOR HOSTILITY AND BEING JERKS AND TELLING PEOPLE WHO THEY CAN AND CAN'T BE WITH. IT JUST...

THAT ON IT'S OWN IS BAD ENOUGH BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DAMN SENSE TO ME!

IT'S ALL SO FRUSTRATING THAT SOMETIMES I JUST WANT TO—

GRACE! USE HUG!

**GLOMP**

EH-BUH-WHU-ZAP!



EASY ELLIOT  
NO SMASH.



OH. I JH SORTA LOST  
MY COOL THERE DIDN'T I?



I KNOW THAT'S  
SOMETHING YOU LIKE  
TO HANG ON TO



SO YOU HAVE YOUR  
GIRLFRIEND HUG ME?



IT WAS  
EITHER THAT  
OR HUG YOU  
MYSELF, WHICH  
GIVEN YOUR  
CURRENT  
UM

YYYEAH,  
GRACE WAS  
THE RIGHT  
CHOICE.



RIGHT WELL  
THANK YOU.

I'M ALWAYS  
HAPPY TO HUG!



UNLESS IT'S  
WITH SOME  
STRANGER.

SOMEONE I  
DON'T LIKE

OR ONE OF  
THOSE BOYS  
AT THE COMIC  
SHOP WHO  
STARE AT ME.

I GUESS THERE  
ARE A LOT OF  
EXCEPTIONS.





I'M JUST GOING TO WAKE UP NOW

BUT IT'S PROBABLY STILL HOURS BEFORE MORN-



MMPH.

I DON'T KNOW IF I'M PROUD OR MAD AT MYSELF FOR WAKING UP



DARN IT I NEVER HAD STUPID SEXY AWKWARD DREAMS BEFORE I STARTED GOING TO BED TRANSFORMED.



SCREW IT! I'M SLEEPING AS A DUDE

THE NIGHT'S ALREADY PART OVER I WON'T BUILD UP TOO MUCH MAGIC



THIS FEELS WEIRD.

BLAMING THE FEMALE FORMS, OF ALL THE CONCLUSION JUMPING... THE SEXY DREAMS STARTED WHEN ELLEN TOLD YOU TO GET INTROSPECTIVE.

THAT WAS MONTHS AFTER YOU STARTED MORPHING BEFORE BED!

MAYBE I JUST CAN'T REMEMBER EARLIER ONES. YOU DON'T KNOW

WHAT I KNOW IS THAT YOU TOTALLY WANT A GIRLFRIEND

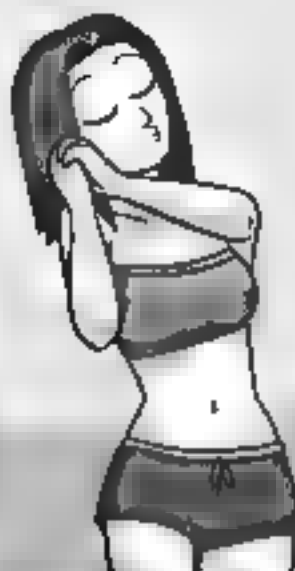
NO I DON'T! I JUST GOT OUT OF--



YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT SARAH'S FEELINGS AND YOU DON'T WANT TO JEOPARDIZE YOUR FRIENDSHIP WITH SUSAN BUT YOU DO REALLY WANT TO DATE SOMEONE WHO ISN'T LIKE A SISTER TO YOU



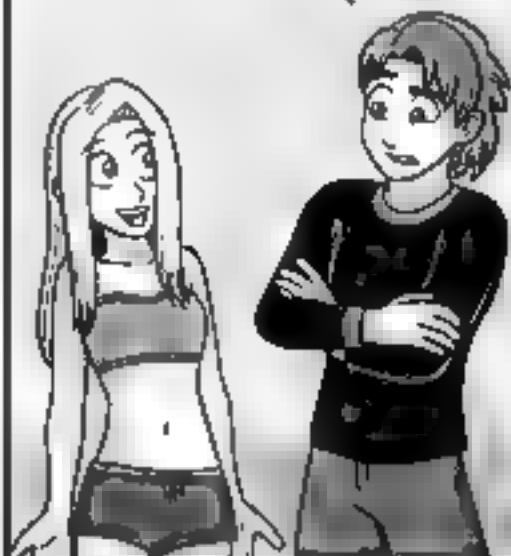
WITH THE SMOOCHING AND THE HUGGING AND THE TOUCHING AND--



OKAY, OKAY SO WHAT IF I DO? WHO WOULD I EVEN ASK OUT?

THERE'S THAT DIANE GIRL

RIGHT BECAUSE DATING MIRROR UNIVERSE SUSAN WOULDN'T BE AT ALL CREEPY



YOU COULD MEET NEW PEOPLE

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



ASK OUT GIRLS WHO AREN'T ALREADY YOUR FRIENDS? GET TO KNOW THEM ON DATES? WORK TO FIND SOMEONE YOU'RE COMPATIBLE WITH?



I DON'T UNDERSTAND





Shortly after waking up (IT WAS A DREAM?)



HUH. STILL  
A DUDE.

I GUESS I  
REALLY DID  
GET ENOUGH  
SLEEP BEFORE  
SWITCHING  
BACK.



DID I DREAM  
AGAIN? I SORTA  
REMEMBER  
TALKING TO A  
GIRL ABOUT  
DATING.

WAS SHE  
SOMEONE I  
KNOW?



I KNOW SHE HAD A  
PONYTAIL. OR WAS IT  
PIGTAILS? SHE *MIGHT*  
HAVE BEEN ASIAN?

WHAT WAS SHE  
WEARING? IT CHANGED  
DIDN'T IT I THINK SHE  
WOUND UP IN A BIKINI...

I THINK I  
CHANGED TOO.  
AND THEN WE...



OH.

WELL, IF SHE WAS  
SOMEONE I KNOW,  
THAT WAS CERTAINLY  
CONTRARY TO HER  
MESSAGE



BLARGH. THIS IS  
GONNA BUG ME

SHE WAS  
TALKING ABOUT  
MEETING NEW  
PEOPLE THOUGH.  
SHE PROBABLY  
REALLY WAS  
JUST SOME  
RANDOM GIRL.

**YAWN**



I GUESS I  
WOULD LIKE TO  
DATE SOMEONE  
BUT IT'S TOO  
SOON. I DON'T  
WANT TO UPSET  
SARAH.

I DOUBT  
ANYONE'S  
INTERESTED  
IN ME  
ANYWAY

SARAH!

OH! UH. HI SUSAN.



.. UH.



IS SOMETHING  
WRONG?



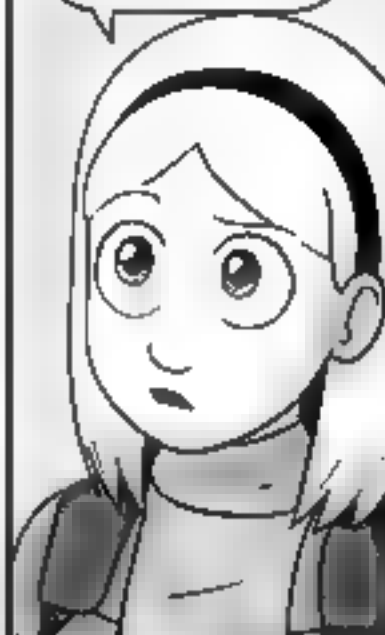
UH..



PAT



DO I WANT TO  
KNOW WHAT THAT  
WAS ABOUT?



I'M UNCOMFORTABLE WITH PHYSICAL  
CONTACT WITH OTHER PEOPLE. I FEEL  
THIS IS DETRIMENTAL TO MY HAPPINESS.  
SO I AM ATTEMPTING TO BECOME MORE  
COMFORTABLE WITH PHYSICAL CONTACT



YOU DON'T LIKE  
BEING TOUCHED BUT  
YOU'D BE HAPPIER IF YOU  
DIDN'T MIND. SO YOU'RE  
WORKING ON IT?



WELL... YES.  
ISN'T THAT WHAT  
I SAID?



I WISH TO LEARN  
ABOUT TOUCHING AND  
BEING TOUCHED



BUT BUT I CAN'T!  
I'M WITH RHODA!



RHODA  
MAY ALSO  
ASSIST



CATALINA?  
YOU OKAY?



WHY DID  
YOU CHANGE  
BACK?

THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT  
WHAT *MIGHT* BE IMPORTANT  
IS I DIDN'T CHANGE BACK



YOU THINK  
YOU'RE OVER  
YOUR ENERGY  
BUILDUPS?

I'M NOT SURE IT'S  
THE CLOSEST I'VE COME  
TO TESTING IT LATELY



AND YOU TRANS-  
FORMED BEFORE  
SCHOOL JUST  
TO BE SAFE?

WELL...



SERIOUSLY?

I'M FINE  
I'LL TRANSFORM BEFORE  
CLASSES START



STILL YOU  
COULD'VE AT LEAST  
MORPHED IN THE  
SHOWER

OF COURSE  
YOU WOULD...  
SUGGEST



ELLIOT?

BE BACK SOON  
SAY YOU TOLD ME  
SO LATER!



DAMMIT DAMMIT DAMMIT!

WHY'D I HAVE  
TO GET COCKY?!



HEH COCKY ABOUT NOT TURNING  
INTO A WOMAN. GOOD ONE



I NEED PRIVACY, BUT THE  
MEN'S ROOM IS TOO FAR AWAY  
AND IF ANYONE'S IN THE  
WOMEN'S... THE STAIRWELL!



SO LONG AS I STAY IN  
THIS CORNER AND TRANS-  
FORM QUICKLY, NO ONE  
SHOULD SEE ANYTHING.



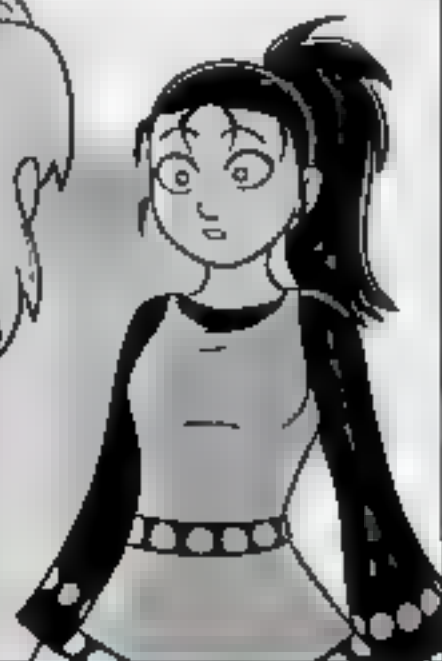
I CAN CHANGE BACK UP-  
STAIRS. ALMOST NOBODY IS UP  
THERE BEFORE FIRST PERIOD.

THERE

ENERGY  
USED.



NOW TO HEAD  
UPSTAIRS AND--



The next story comic will be **Thursday!**  
**Tomorrow: Christmas sketchbook!**









I-I'M SORRY. ARE YOU OKAY? DO YOU NEED HELP?



HELP?

YEAH, LIKE HOT WATER OR SOMETHING TO CHANGE BACK?

YOU CAN CHANGE BACK, RIGHT?



UH...

GUESS THERE'S NOT MUCH POINT IN TRYING TO DENY IT.



YEAH, I'M FINE. I HAD NO CHOICE TO CHANGE JUST THEN...

BUT I *MOSTLY* HAVE CONTROL OF... *THIS*.



OH. SO, UM... YOU JUST NEED SOMEWHERE YOU WON'T BE SEEN TO CHANGE BACK?



UM... YEAH. I WAS SORTA THINKING SOMEWHERE UPSTAIRS WOULD WORK.



WANT A LOOKOUT?

WHO IS THIS GIRL? SHE SEEMS FAMILIAR...

WHOEVER SHE IS, I GUESS I'M LUCKY IT WAS HER WHO FOUND OUT ABOUT ME AND NOT SOMEONE ELSE.



EXCEPT... WAIT. DID SHE FIND OUT? HOW MUCH OF THE TRANSFORMATION DID SHE SEE?



IF IT WAS ONLY PART OF IT, SHE MIGHT NOT KNOW WHO I AM, AND IF THAT'S THE CASE...

HAVE WE MET BEFORE? I MEAN, I'VE PROBABLY SEEN YOU AROUND, BUT...

SORT OF. I'M ASHLEY. YOU RESCUED MY CELL PHONE YESTERDAY.



THAT'S WHY SHE'S FAMILIAR! ALSO? DAMMIT.

I'VE SEEN YOUR SHOW WITH SUSAN, BUT... THAT'S SORT OF ONE-SIDED...



OH. UH. YEAH...



SO SHE REALLY KNOWS WHO I AM. HM. I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK I SAW HER SOMEWHERE ELSE, TOO, BUT...

"SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ASIAN?"

"I KNOW SHE HAD A PONYTAIL... OR WAS IT PIGTAILS?"



ASIAN... WITH AN OFF-CENTER PONYTAIL!



IT WAS HER!



